GC

絶園のテンペスト

～THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER～

5

原作：城平京
構成：左有秀
作画：彩崎廉

SQUARE ENIX

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SQUARE ENIX.

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絶園のテンペスト 5

THE CIVILIZATION ARRIVED

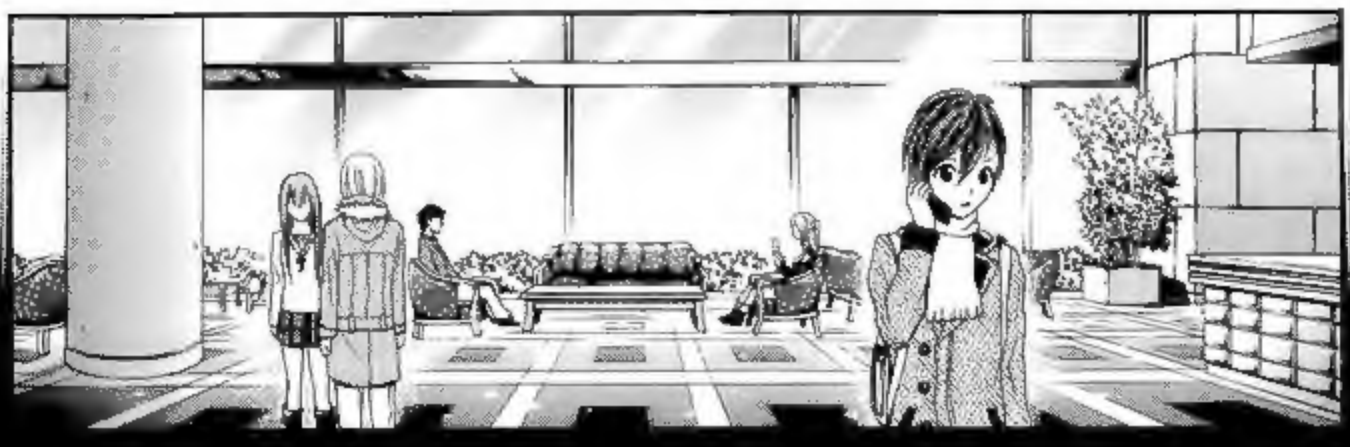
# Chapter 20 – The Unexplainable Story

THE CLOSEST TREE FROM THE TRAIN STATION...

ABOUT THAT...
THE MEETING PLACE IS...

IS THAT IT?

EVEN MY HOTEL AND TRAVEL-LING BILLS WERE ALSO ACCOUNTED FOR.
HAKAZE-SAN SEEMS LIKE A TRUST-WORTHY PERSON.
ALTHOUGH I HAVE QUITE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS,



YOU NEED A DEEPER UNDER-STANDING OF YOUR SITUATION,
YOU SHOULD START TRAINING AND LEARN HOW TO USE YOUR POWERS.

WOULD HAVE CAUSED CHAOS AND CONFUSION LIKE IT DID ONE MONTH AGO.

LETTING IT RECOVER NORMALLY,
RATHER THAN RECKLESSLY GOING TO MT. FUJI TO FIND THE "TREE OF ZETSUEN."

I...
ALMOST DID SOMETHING THAT DANGEROUS?
NO.
I AM ALSO UNSURE AS TO WHAT IS CONSIDERED "DANGEROUS" NOW.
...HANEMURA.
THE OTHERS SHOULD BE PICKING UP HANEMURA-SAN TOMORROW.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
YOU SHOULD GO WITH THEM.
THEY ARE THE ONES WHO NEED YOU NOW. THE EVENTS THAT HAVE TRANSPIRED WOULD ALSO BE MADE CLEARER.

THE ONE WHO WILL SAVE THE WORLD MAY VERY WELL BE YOU.
WHEN THAT TIME COMES, JUST DEFEAT ME WITHOUT HOLDING BACK.
DON'T WORRY.
ムフ
Sub
WHAT A PRETTY GIRL.
IT SHOULD BE A GOOD PERSON...
カチ
THEY SENT ME A PHOTO.
I WONDER WHAT THEY'LL LOOK LIKE.

WE'VE CHOSEN THIS ABANDONED AREA FOR THIS PURPOSE.
IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM EVEN IF WE HAVE TO BATTLE THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN."
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
NATSU-MURA-KUN.


HOWEVER,

BUT NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, WE HAVE TO GET HIM TO COOPERATE WITH US...
YES, IF IT IS THE REAL ONE.

I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DEFEAT HIM.
IF IT IS INDEED THE REAL "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN,"

LOOKS LIKE HE'S HERE.
Ah!
Oh no!
She's very pretty in real life!
NICE TO MEET YOU,
HANEMURA-KUN.
There's someone who looks like a killer...
I haven't heard about this...

THIS IS NATSUMURA-KUN, A MAGICIAN.
JUST CALL HIM NATSU.

I AM EVANGELINE YAMAMOTO.
YOU CAN CALL ME EVANGELINE.

PLEASE DON'T CALL ME THAT.

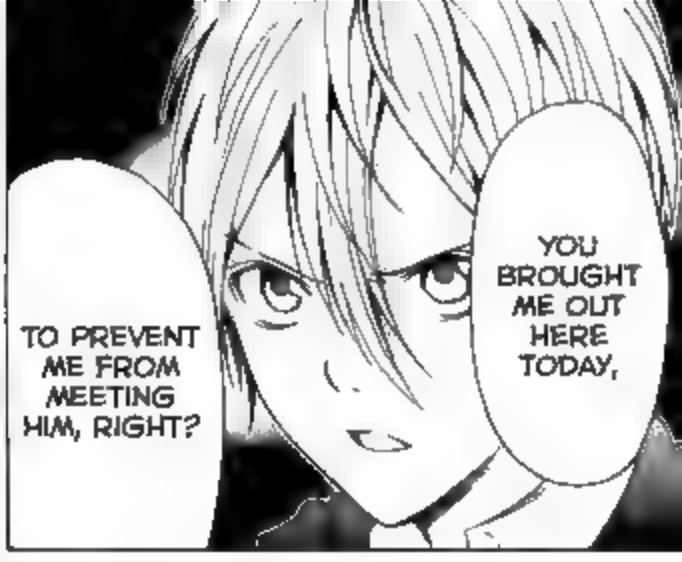
SO, HANE-MURA-KUN.

He's a magician too?
Looks like he's stronger than me!

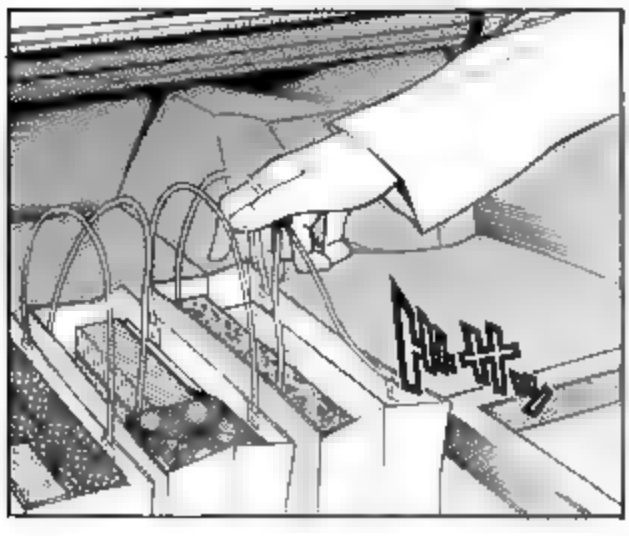
NOW THAT WE'VE PICKED YOU UP,
CARE TO TELL US MORE INFOR-MATION?

ふぅ…
I HAVE TO BUY DAILY GENERAL GOODS FOR YOU.
I HAVE TO BUY THINGS FOR SEVERAL PEOPLE.
WE ALSO HAVE TO GO TO OTHER PLACES AS WELL.
WHY AM I IN THIS SORRY STATE...
WHERE I HAVE TO GO NEW YEAR'S SHOPPING WITH YOU?
THAT "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN," HANEMURA...
ARE THEY MEETING WITH HIM NOW?
BARGAIN
SALE

BUT,
WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL IN OUR CURRENT SITUATION.


YOU BROUGHT ME OUT HERE TODAY,
TO PREVENT ME FROM MEETING HIM, RIGHT?

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT.



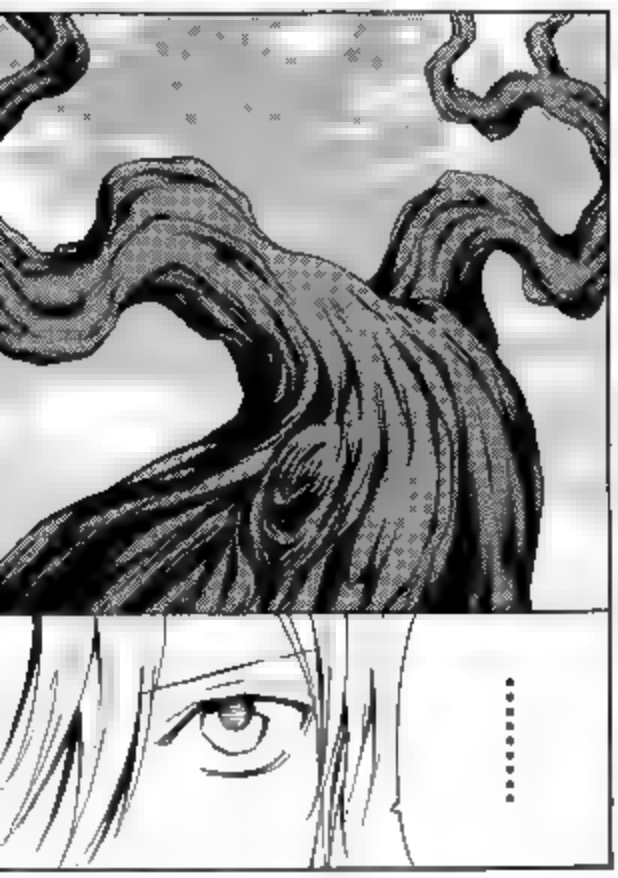
BEFORE YOU MEET HIM,
SHOULDN'T WE FIRST CONFIRM HIS IDENTITY AS THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN"?

THE PRINCESS IS SURE ABOUT IT.

...THAT GUY...
IS HE A REAL MAGICIAN?

BUT AT THE SAME TIME,
SHE ALSO BELIEVES THAT HE IS NOT A KILLER.

...IF HE IS THE REAL DEAL,
HE WOULD NOT EASILY REVEAL HIS TRUE COLORS ANYWAY.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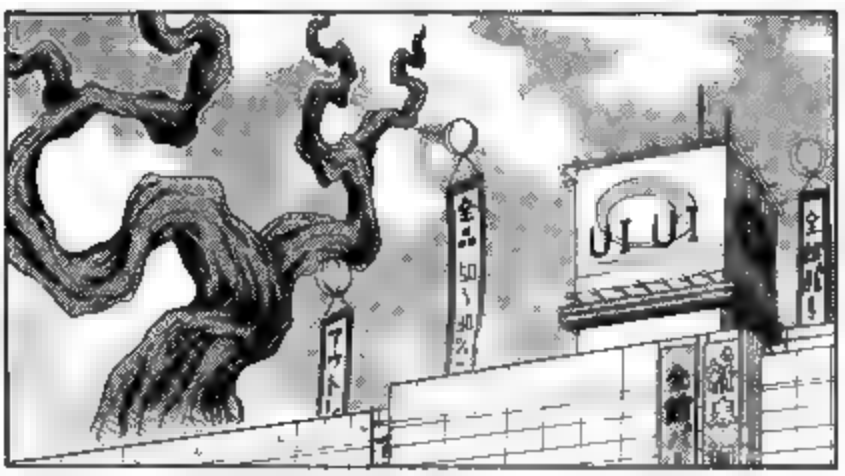
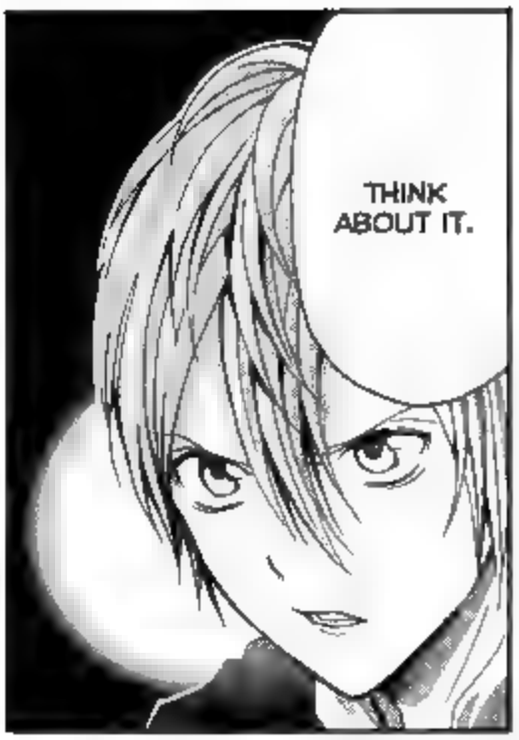


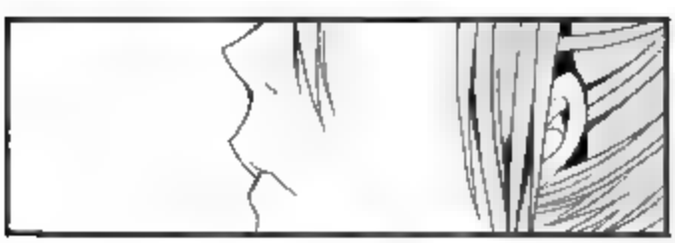
WHAT?

HEY, SAMON.
IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU CAN MAINTAIN YOUR COMPOSURE LIKE THAT.

THE PLAN THAT YOU SPENT SO LONG PREPARING FOR,
IN THE END, WAS ALL FOR NAUGHT.


THINK ABOUT IT.

EVEN IF THAT HAPPENED, YOU WOULD STILL GO AGAINST THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS." YOU SERIOUSLY HAVE A STRONG WILL.



IF IT WAS ANY OTHER GUY,
HE WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP ALREADY.

AND TELLS YOU,
IF THE DESTROYER OF THE WORLD APPEARED IN FRONT OF YOU,
FUWA MAHIRO.
"NO MATER WHAT YOU DO, YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO CHANGE THIS WORLD."
OR IF HE SAYS, "IF AT THAT TIME, HAD YOU NOT GIVEN UP, YOU MIGHT HAVE CHANGED THE WORLD."
WHICH WOULD YOU THINK IS BETTER?
WHAT AN IRRITATING GOD.
GOD IS THIS KIND OF BEING.
.....
カリ
ギャ
...EVEN IF THE END RESULT IS THE SAME.

EVEN WHEN I DO NOT SEE THE FAINTEST RAY OF HOPE,
I STILL CANNOT GIVE UP NOW..
EVEN AFTER GIVING UP, PEOPLE WILL STILL SAY THAT THERE IS A CHANCE TO WIN.
I WOULD RATHER CONTINUE ON THE PATH WHERE PEOPLE SAY THAT THERE IS NO CHANCE OF WINNING.
.....
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IF YOUR SISTER'S DEATH MAY HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS"...
WOULD YOU GIVE UP ON YOUR REVENGE?

フ…

フン
DO I LOOK LIKE THAT KIND OF PERSON TO YOU?

JUST CALL ME MAHIRO.

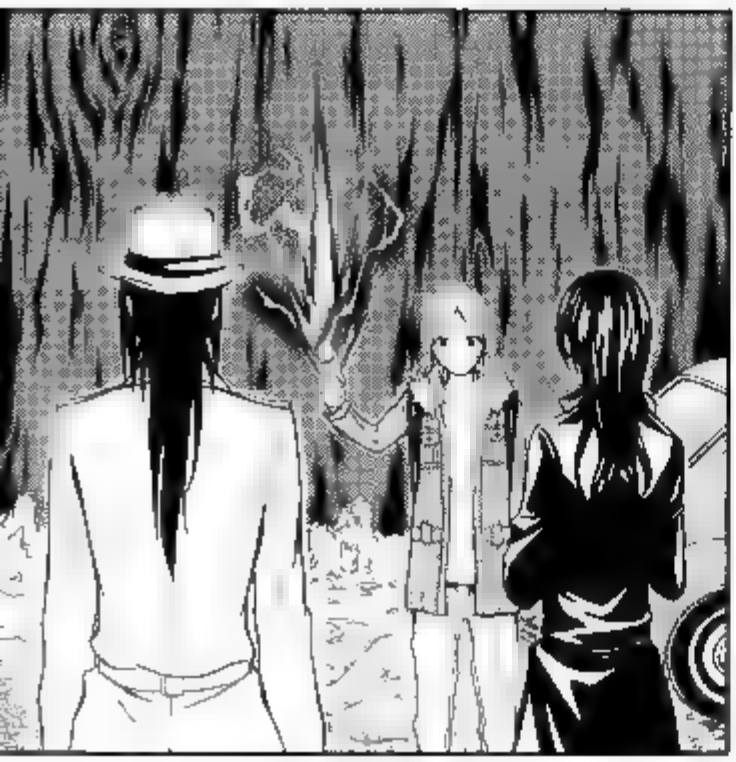
WE BOTH HAVE A WILL THAT NEVER STOPS TRYING,
FUWA MAHIRO.

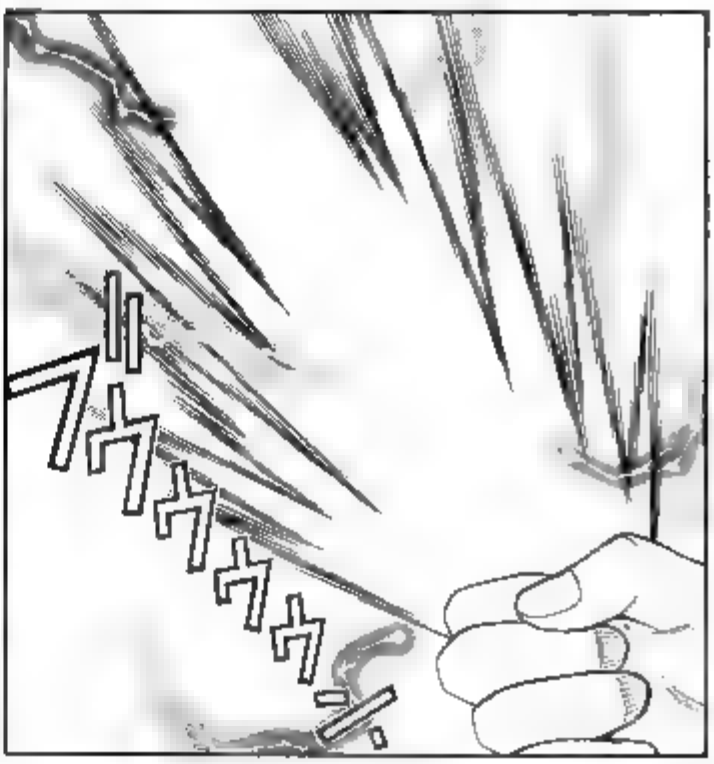
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ADDRESS ME BY MY FULL NAME.

BUT...

IF THIS WERE TO BECOME A STORY,
THEN UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THAT GOD,
WE, WHO DO WHATEVER WE WANT, ARE THE ANTAGONISTS.
THEN UNDER THE ALMIGHTY GOD, WE WOULD ALSO NOT GIVE UP.
WE WOULD PERSEVERE. WOULDN'T THAT MAKE ME THE MAIN PROTAGONIST?
REGARDLESS,
I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE I AM THE ANTAGONIST.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR FACE AND AGE AREN'T SUITABLE FOR YOU TO BE THE MAIN BOSS.
WHAT AN UNREASONABLE STORY.
ハァ：
YOU SHOULD JUST COMPLAIN TO YOUR GOD ABOUT YOUR MISFORTUNES.

ブオオオ…




ブウウウウ…!

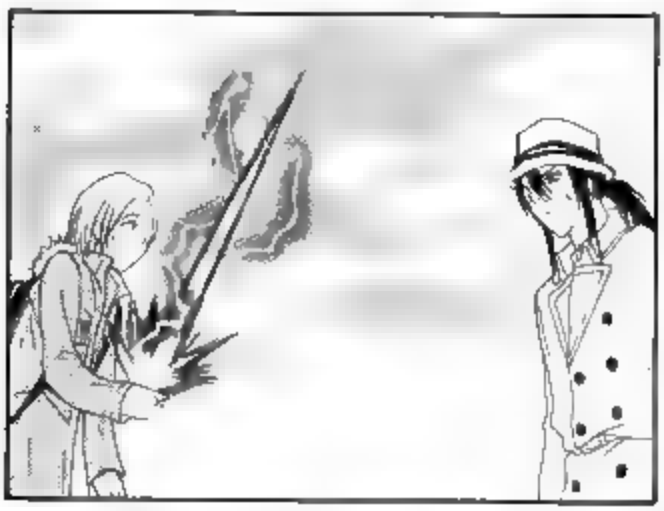
WHEN YOU USE MAGIC,
AREN'T THERE ANY "INCANTATIONS" OR "OFFERINGS" THAT YOU NEED?

Wield such impressive destructive magic..!?
He could easily,

IS THERE ANY DRAIN MENTALLY OR PHYSICALLY?

I DON'T HAVE ANY CHANTS. I JUST THINK ABOUT USING MAGIC AND THIS HAPPENS.
NO.

IS THE TRIGGER FOR MY MAGIC.
MAYBE THE ACT OF THINKING,



I HAVEN'T REALLY DONE ANYTHING PARTICULARLY STRENUOUS YET. THAT MIGHT BE WHY I HAVEN'T FELT MUCH FATIGUE...
I DON'T KNOW...

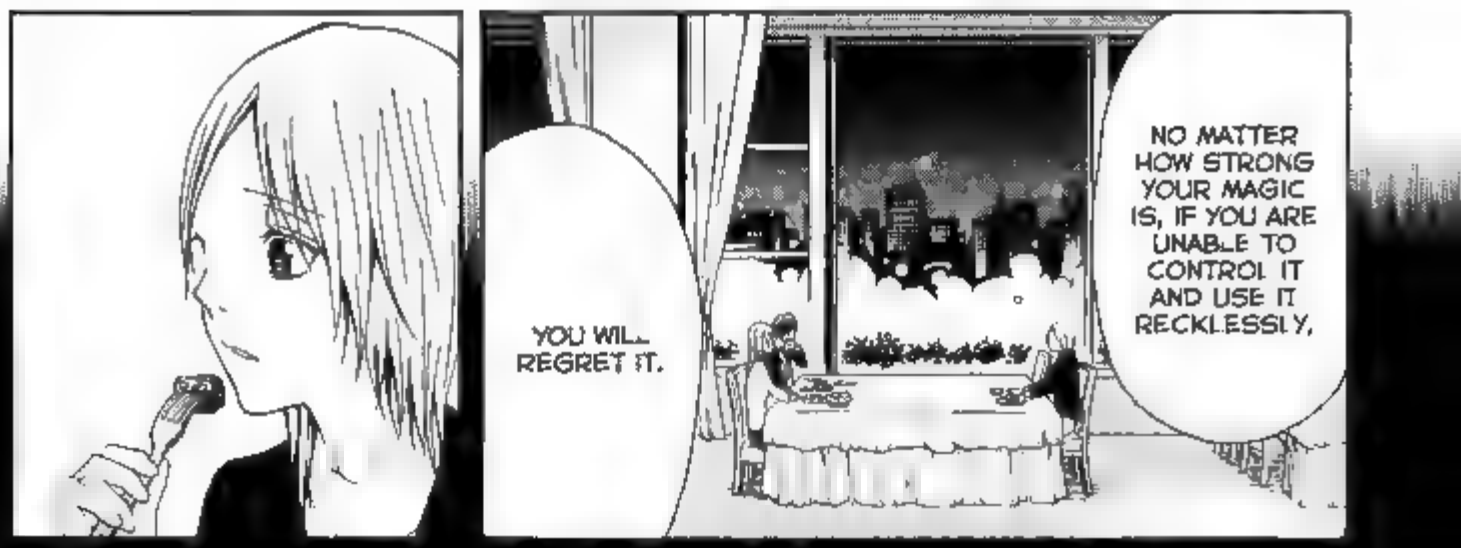
This is very dangerous...!

.....

With so many restrictions on Kusaribe magic, his destructive magic would completely overwhelm us...
He is able to use magic without any incantations, offerings, or exhausting himself?

Compared to those two...
He doesn't seem to be of much use to us.
This boy is as Hakaze-san has said.
He may be quite useful actually.
From my point of view, this boy is just a normal teenager
Those two are very much abnormal in the first place.
What's wrong with me...
He is still a suspect in Fuwa Aika's murder...
The irrefutable fact is that,
But,

Judging from their reactions,
My magic is really quite powerful...


NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOUR MAGIC IS, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO CONTROL IT AND USE IT RECKLESSLY,
YOU WILL REGRET IT.

YOU MUST LEARN HOW TO CONTROL YOUR POWER, JUST LIKE THE TIME WHEN YOU FOUGHT ME
ESPECIALLY SINCE YOUR MAGIC EXISTS TO DESTROY
IF YOU WERE TO MISS YOUR TARGET,
YOU WOULD END UP HURTING INNOCENT PEOPLE.
IF YOU LOSE CONTROL, YOU MAY LAND YOURSELF IN QUITE A BIT OF TROUBLE.

YOU MUST PRACTICE AGAIN AND AGAIN UNTIL YOU CAN FULLY CONTROL YOUR POWERS.
EVEN IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DESTROY YOUR TARGET, IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
That's right...
If I fail to control my magic, it would be very dangerous
It's just as she said.
For example, if I wanted to destroy this tree, how should I do it?

How about,
Forming an image in my mind of destroying this Tree?
DESTROY!

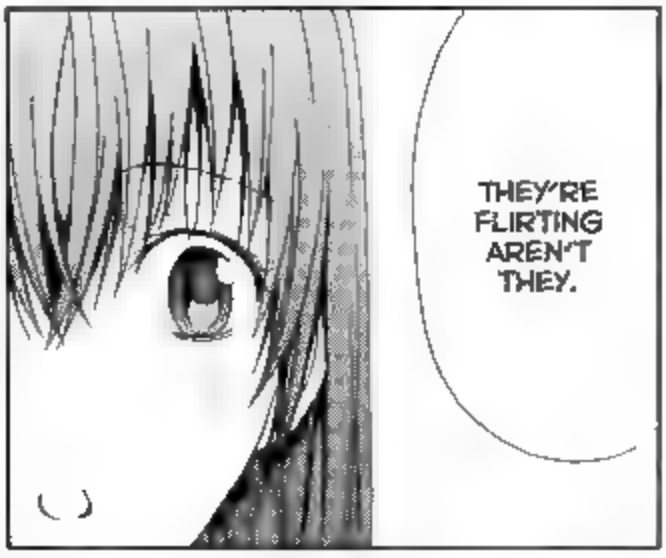
WHA-WHA-WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO?!
YOU JUST DESTROYED ONE WHOLE TREE, THIS IS SERIOUS!
ERM..
I WAS JUST TRYING SOMETHING...
JUST TRYING?!
IF IT'S FOUND THAT WE CAUSED THIS TO HAPPEN, WE'RE DEAD MEAT!
NATSUMURA-KUN, GET IN THE CAR!
ANYWAY, LET'S RUN FIRST!

DON'T USE MAGIC WITHOUT OUR PERMIS-SION ANY-MORE!
GOT IT?!
U-UNDER STOOD!
I PROMISE!

This, this is really
Such a powerful magic.
Luckily the Tree of Beginnings has not made any weird reaction.
If not this may lead to a disaster happening.
How fortunate.
That princess...
Shouldn't that princess be the one to supervise him?
This boy..

s it because she wanted to spend time alone w'th Yoshino-kun that she sent Hanemura to us?

YEAH, THEY ARE.


THEY'RE FLIRTING AREN'T THEY.

HA.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S COLD THEY'RE DOING PRETTY WELL.
YES, THEY ARE.

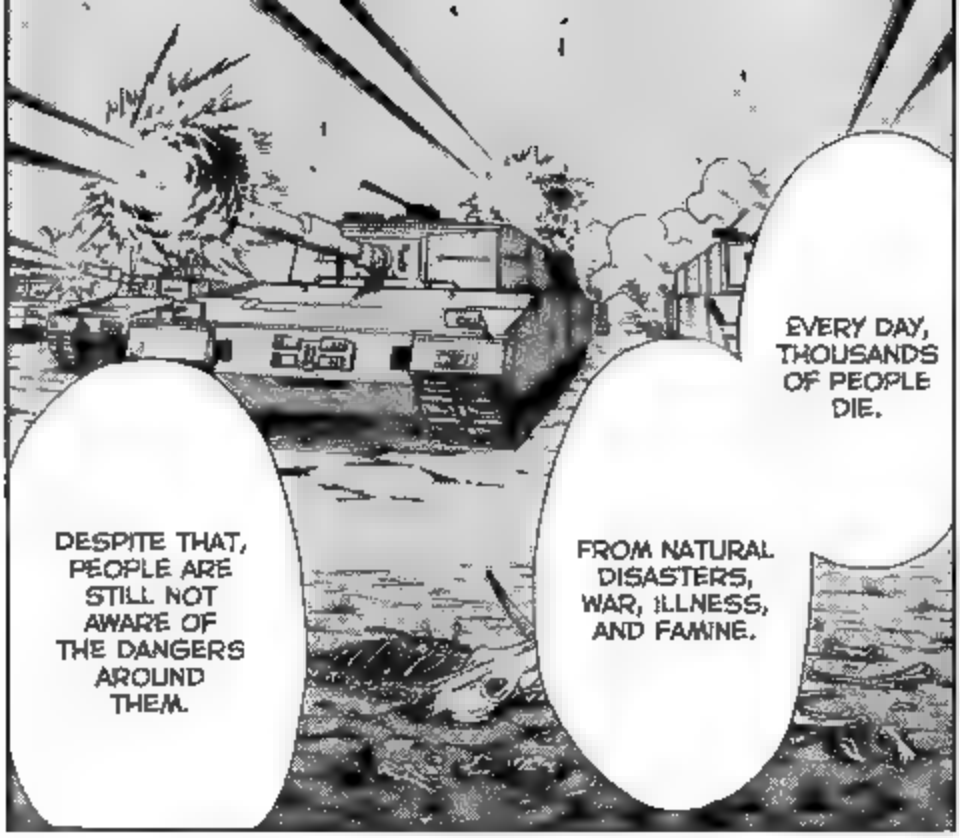
AROUND TEN MILLION PEOPLE DISAPPEARED IN A SINGLE NIGHT
AND THE WORLD WAS IN CHAOS.
BUT LOVERS CAN STILL ACT LIKE BEFORE AND COME OUT AND HAVE FUN TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR

REALLY.
IT WAS JUST LIKE A DREAM.

IT'S JUST LIKE AS IF OUR FEELINGS,
HAVE ALSO BEEN REWRITTEN BY THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS."

WITHOUT ANY SENSE OF DANGER... IS THIS REALLY GOOD FOR THEM?

THAT'S NOT TRUE.


EVERY DAY, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DIE.
FROM NATURAL DISASTERS, WAR, ILLNESS, AND FAMINE.
DESPITE THAT, PEOPLE ARE STILL NOT AWARE OF THE DANGERS AROUND THEM.

EVEN BEFORE THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" APPEARED,

BUT AT LEAST NOW,
N...

NO MATTER HOW MANY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE DIE,
THE WORLD HAS ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.

IT'S JUST LIKE AS IF WE PAID FOR THE DEATH IN ADVANCE, AND SO THE WORLD IS WITHOUT CONFLICT FOR THE FIRST TIME.
THIS PERIOD MAY VERY WELL BE THE BEST IN HISTORY.

HUH?

THAT'S SLIGHTLY FAR OUT.

SHORT FOR "SLIGHTLY FRIGHTENING," YOU KNOW...
SF IS NOT,

I MEAN, I JUST THINK THAT YOUR WAY OF THINKING IS SF.

Science Fiction... Speculative... SciFi... Frightening...
OR WAIT, MAYBE IT COULD WORK LIKE THAT?

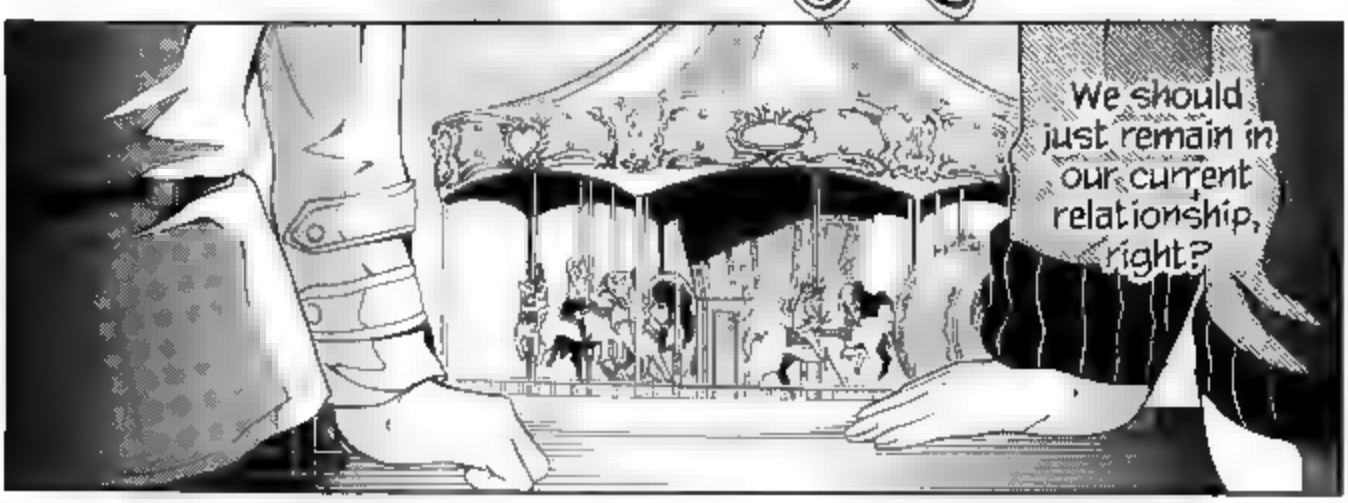
KIND OR COLD, I JUST CAN'T TELL...
WHETHER YOU'RE OPEN MINDED OR NARROW MINDED,

SOME-TIMES I JUST CAN'T UNDER-STAND YOU.
YOU...

In the end,

YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.

I'M SORRY.
ER...


We should just remain in our current relationship, right?

!!
Hey!
ひょい
It's been a week.
JUN-NIISAN.
YOU ARE ALWAYS SO SUDDEN,
I JUST HAD TO LOOK AROUND HERE TO FIND YOU.
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND YOU THIS EASILY THOUGH.
Hello.
HOW DID YOU KNOW WE WERE HERE?
COULD YOU BUY SOME HOT COFFEE,
FOR THE THREE OF US?
ゴソ
ANYWAY,
YOSHINO-KUN.

JUN-NIISAN.
HOW COULD YOU MAKE YOSHINO-KUN YOUR ERRAND BOY...
IT'S ALRIGHT.
I'LL GET IT.
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG, JUN-NIISAN?
YOU NEED TO TALK TO ME IN PRIVATE?
HAKAZE-CHAN.
YOU LIKE YOSHINO-KUN DON'T YOU?

Huh?
OF COURSE NOT.
HOW COULD YOSHINO POSSIBLY BE BOYFRIEND-MATERIAL FOR ME?
SO YOU DON'T?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
JUN-NIISAN.
ANYWAY, YOSHINO HAS A GIRLFRIEND ALREADY.
THAT KIND OF CRAZY GUY ACTUALLY HAS A GIRL-FRIEND.
THAT'S WHAT'S SURPRISING.
BUT,
HE REALLY IS AN AMAZING GUY.

THOUGH I'VE NEVER TOUCHED HIS CHEST BEFORE,
ACCI-DENTALLY BRUSHING AGAINST IT MIGHT BE FUN!
ALSO, EVEN THOUGH HE LOOKS FRAIL AND WEAK, HE ACTUALLY HAS A STRONG, MUSCULAR CHEST...
AND, ALTHOUGH HE IS YOUNG AND MAKES MISTAKES, I FIND THAT A CUTE POINT OF HIS.
ON MT. FUJI, HE METICULOUSLY EXECUTED HIS PLANS. HE WASN'T EVEN AFRAID OF DEATH. IN REALITY, HE IS A VERY CARING GUY WHO IS MINDFUL OF EVERYTHING.
I ALSO HELPED HIM COMB HIS HAIR THIS WAY, WHICH I THINK MAKES HIM LOOK CUTER...
ANYWAY, SINCE WE ARE ALSO PLANNING TO GO TO THE HOT SPRINGS, I COULD COMB IT AGAIN FOR HIM THERE.
I WANT TO PINCH AND PULL IT ALL DAY.
HIS EAR ALSO LOOKS REALLY SOFT...
HMM... I SHOULD ALSO GET HIM A DIFFERENT HAIRPIN...
I JUST WANT TO REWARD HIM FOR HELPING ME SO MUCH.
I HAVE NO ULTERIOR MOTIVE.
Mod
Mod

WANTING TO COMB HIS HAIR AND TOUCH HIS CHEST, THESE KINDS OF THINGS,
ISN'T IT COMPLETELY LIKE A TEEN-AGE GIRL IN LOVE?
MAYBE IT IS...
But .. But...
I'm actually ..
In LOVE?
IF HE IS NOT SOMEONE YOU LOVE, THAT WOULD ACTUALLY BE QUITE SCARY.
URK.
WANTING TO PINCH AND PULL A GUY'S EARS THE WHOLE DAY...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE THIS OLD ALREADY!
I'M ALREADY THIS OLD, HOW COULD I POSSIBLY FALL IN LOVE!!
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!

BUT...
IF I'M ACTUALLY IN LOVE WITH HIM, THEN EVERYTHING MAKES SENSE...
.....
Hm.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHY I WAS ANGRY, JEALOUS, AND SAD AT THE SAME TIME.
I WAS UNABLE TO FALL ASLEEP THAT NIGHT...
ONE NIGHT I FOUND HIM SITTING DOWN,
LOOKING AT A PICTURE ON HIS PHONE. I THINK IT WAS HIS GIRLFRIEND.

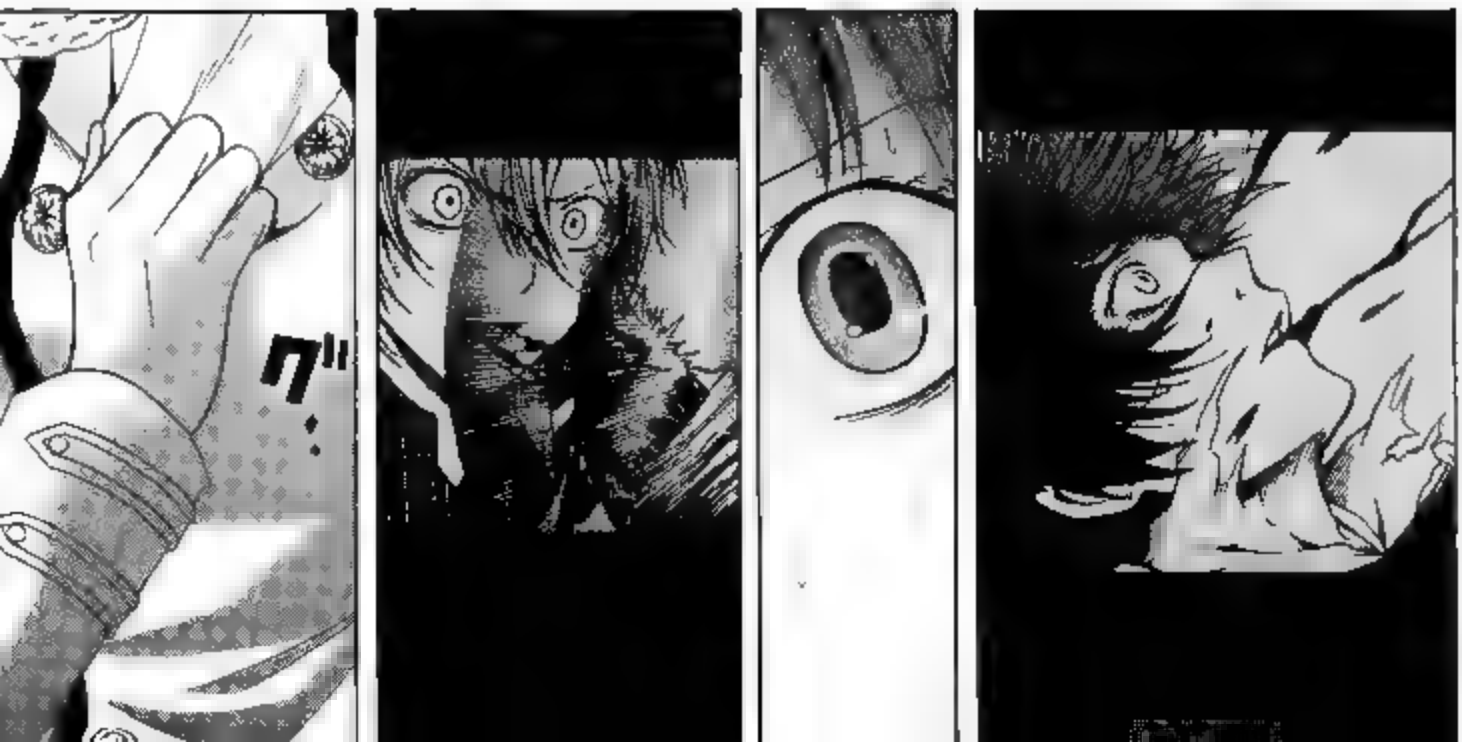
I'm in LOVE!
...SO THAT'S THE REASON!!

I DID NOT SEE THIS COMING... IT'S TOTALLY UNEXPECTED!
HOW CAN SOMEONE EXPECT TO FALL IN LOVE?
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT FOR THE MOMENT.
I KNOW...
NOW IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO FALL IN LOVE...
FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM WOULD BE TROUBLE-SOME.
I DON'T MEAN THAT.
Ah
FALLING IN LOVE WITH SOME-ONE WHO ALREADY HAS A GIRL-FRIEND WILL NEVER END WELL.
YEAH.
IT'S NOT THAT.
DOESN'T YOSHINO-KUN HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?

IF YOU HAVE A STRONG DESIRE TO BE TOGETHER WITH YOSHINO-KUN,
THAT GIRLFRIEND OF HIS WOULD BE KILLED BY THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS."

THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" GRANTS YOU NOT ONLY PROTECTION,
BUT ALSO SITUATIONS TO FULFILL YOUR WISHES.

IF YOUR WISH IS TO BE TOGETHER WITH YOSHINO-KUN,
THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" MAY HAVE ELIMINATED THAT GIRL-FRIEND OF HIS TO FULFILL THAT DESIRE.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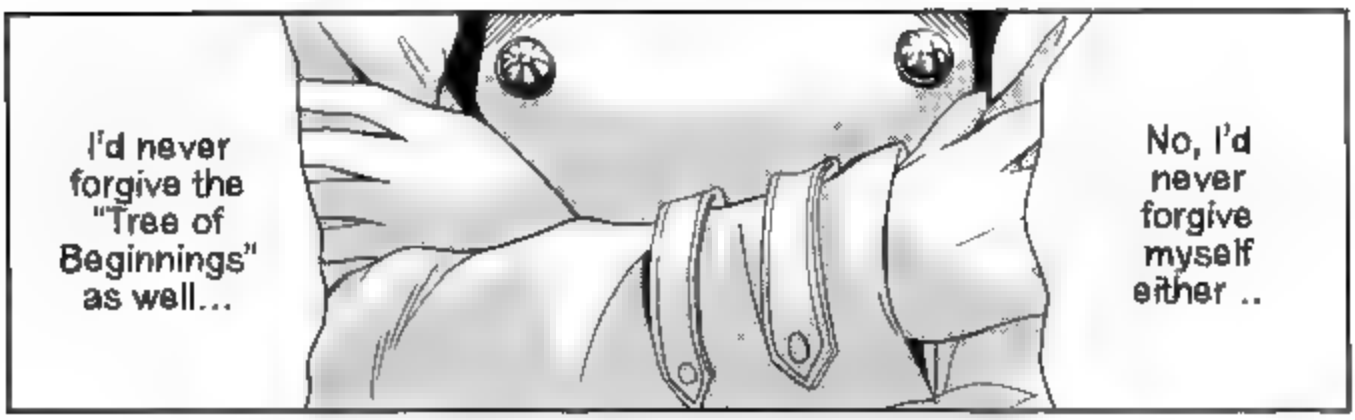
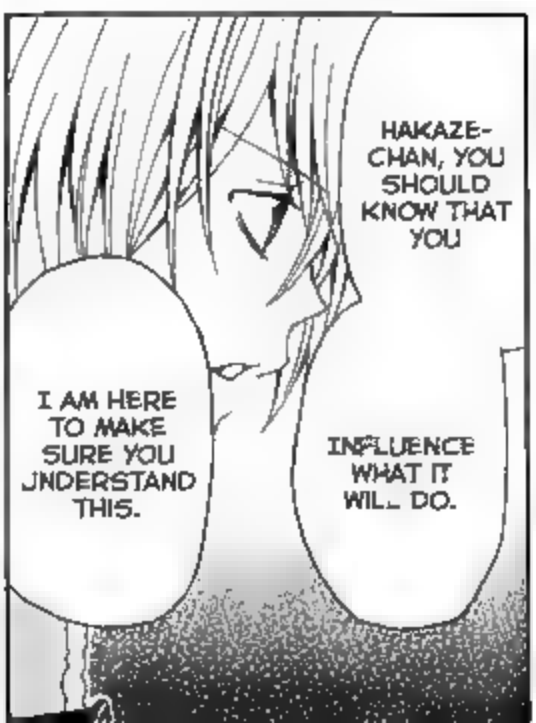
No...
How could this be possible...
THE WILL OF THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS,"
MAY NOT INTERFERE WITH MATTERS CONCERNING LOVE.
BUT IF YOSHINO-KUN'S GIRLFRIEND DIES FROM AN ACCIDENT,
WOULDN'T HE SUSPECT IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS"?
Yoshino . He won't forgive me, right?
..if that happens ..
He would never forgive me .
HA
HA.


I'd never forgive the "Tree of Beginnings" as well...
No, I'd never forgive myself either ..

ナニ

No, no, no ..
What if that happens... What will I do?

I DON'T WANT YOU TO REGRET NOT REALIZING IT SOONER.
YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH THE GUILT


HAKAZE-CHAN, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT YOU
I AM HERE TO MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THIS.
INFLUENCE WHAT IT WILL DO.

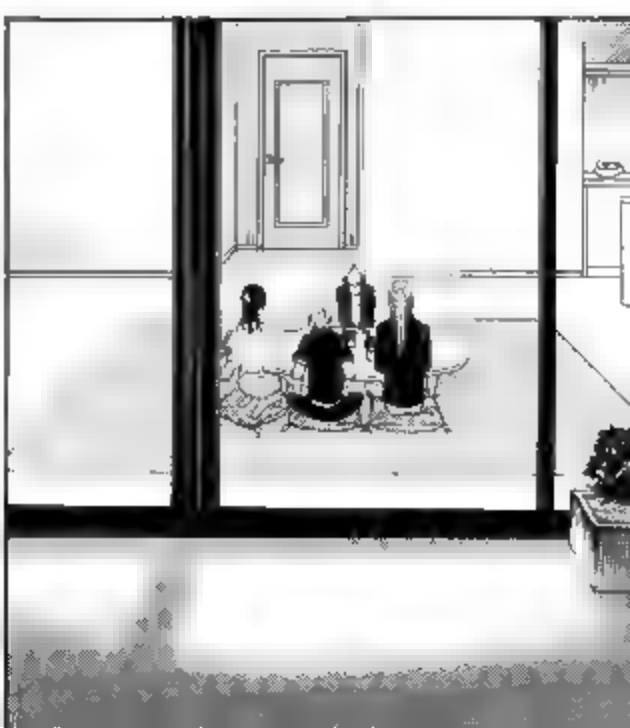
THE "TREE OF BEGIN-N.NGS" DOES NOT KNOW GOOD OR EVIL.
BUT,

I WILL GIVE UP ON YOSHINO.
I WILL TRY MY BEST TO GIVE UP ON HIM.
THANK YOU,
JUN-NIISAN.
JUN-NIISAN!!
IT'S OKAY TO NOT GIVE UP.
LETTING HIM BREAK WITH UP HIS GIRL-FRIEND IS ALSO NOT A BAD IDEA.

HAVE YOU SOLVED THE PROBLEM?
YES.
THEN I WILL LEAVE HAKAZE-CHAN TO YOU.
ポン
TREAT HER WELL OKAY?
I KNOW.
...Yoshino-kun might be a "Magician of Zetsuen."
I still can't tell her that.
.....?

What is his girlfriend like?
It should be someone very extra-ordinary right?
Still,
But,
At least we have a solution for him now.

THIS IS REGARDING HANEMURA MEGUMU...
OKAY, NEXT UP...



WHAT IS GOING ON?
HUH?
ABOUT BEING THE SUSPECT IN A MURDER...
THE INVESTIGATION WILL NOW COMMENCE.
WHAT?!

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# ZETSUEN NO TEMPEST

by SHIRODAIRA Kyou and SAIZAKI Ren

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## ZetSuen no Tempest ch 20

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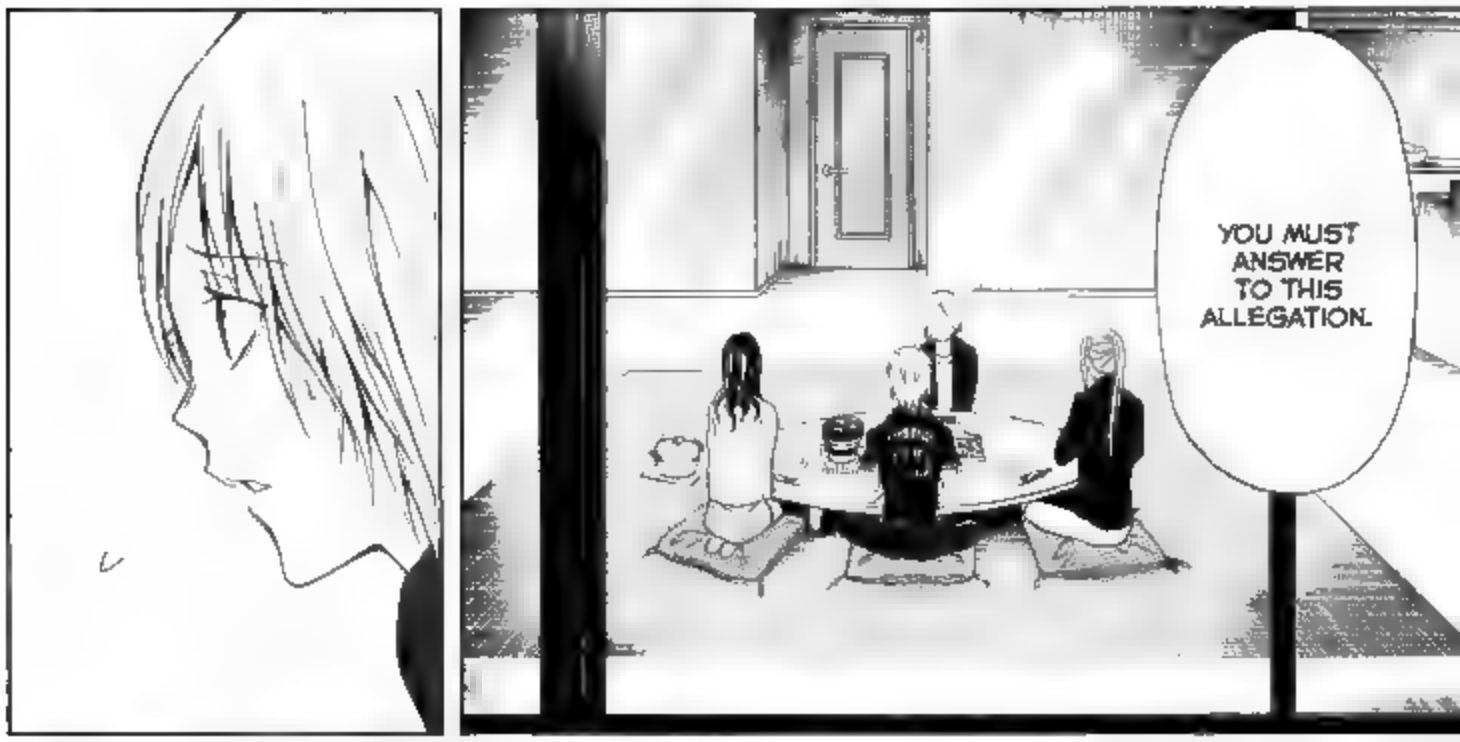
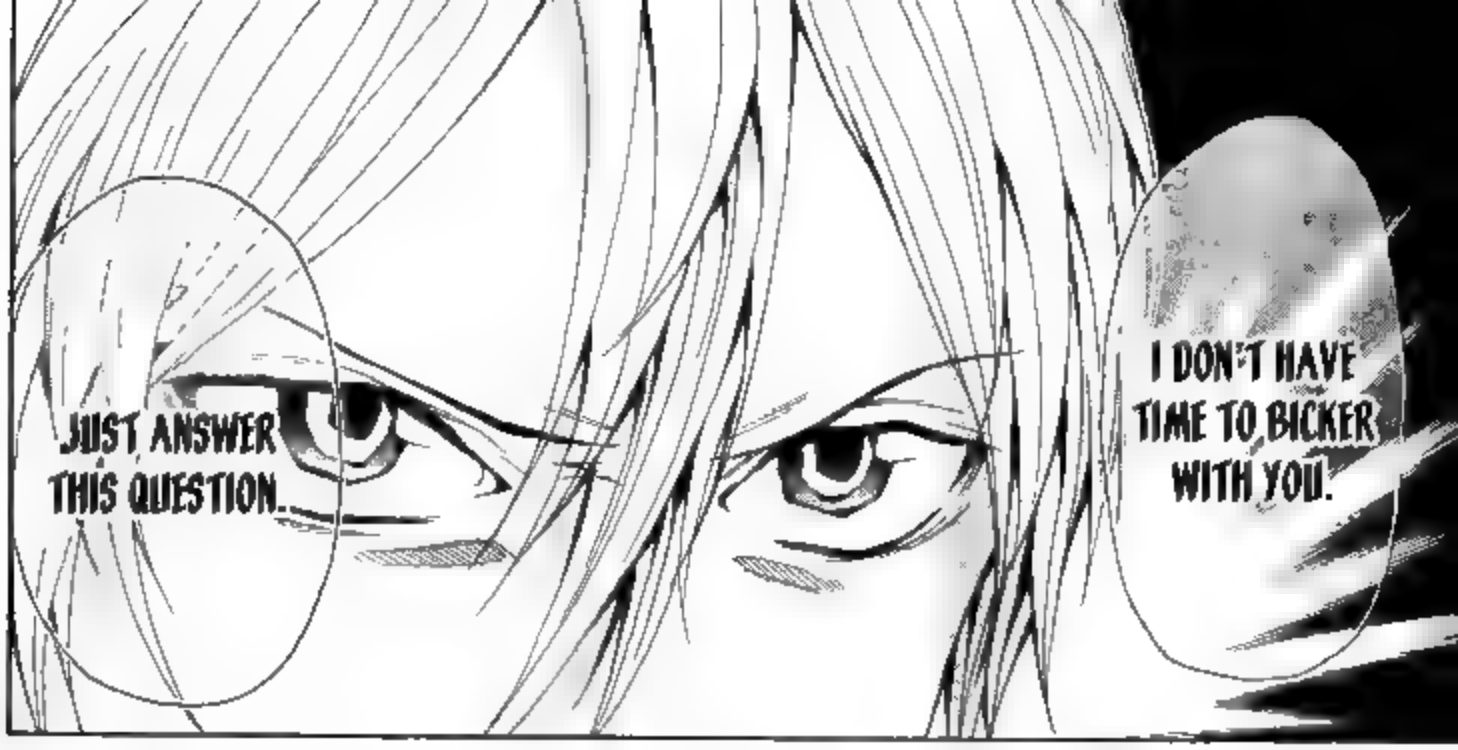
# Chapter 21: They Seem to be Planning Something

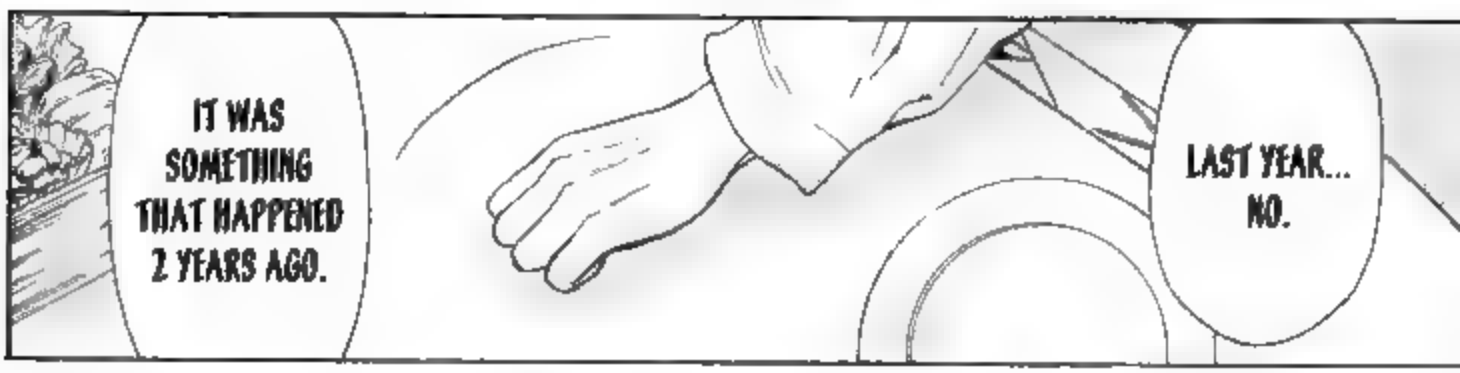
THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN"
IS SUSPECTED OF BEING A KILLER.


YOU MUST ANSWER TO THIS ALLEGATION.

DON'T BE SO NERVOUS.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORY OF IT, THE CONVERSATION ENDS HERE

Ki... killing people?
I obviously don't have any memory of killing anyone.
Relax...
We can talk while we have our meal.
He doesn't seem to be a magician, but even so,
...Who is this person called Makiro?
He must be someone important!
To be able to speak with them on equal ground...
N NO! IT'S NOT THAT KIND OF SERIOUS ATMOS-PHERE!


JUST ANSWER THIS QUESTION.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BICKER WITH YOU.

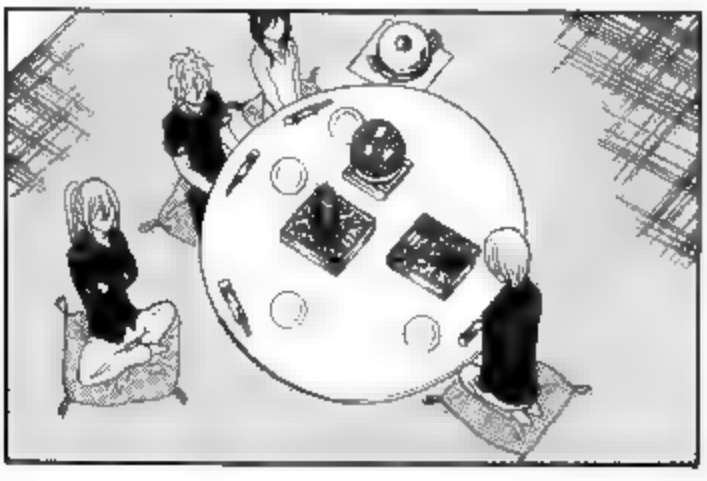

IT WAS SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED 2 YEARS AGO.
LAST YEAR... NO.

YOU'RE ASKING ME FOR AN ALIBI?
IN OTHER WORDS...

TWO YEARS AGO ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 23RD AROUND 10 PM TILL MIDNIGHT
WHERE WERE YOU?

SAD...
THAT IS VERY...
I UNDER-STAND.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SYMPA-THIZE WITH ME.
THE KILLER STILL HAS NOT BEEN FOUND.
I FOUND THEIR BODIES THE NEXT MORNING.
BOTH MY PARENTS AND SISTER WERE KILLED.
ON THAT DAY,
BUT GIVEN OUR CURRENT SITUATION,
YOU COULD ACTUALLY SAY IT'S ONE OF THE LESS DEPRESSING STORIES
BUT I...
WON'T ALLOW AIKA'S KILLER TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU MAY THINK...

EVEN IF THIS IS WRONG,
I WILL SEE TO IT NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.



Connect the dots.
I still have to confirm it...

MY SISTER!!
COULDN'T YOU CONNECT THE DOTS FROM WHAT I JUST SAID?

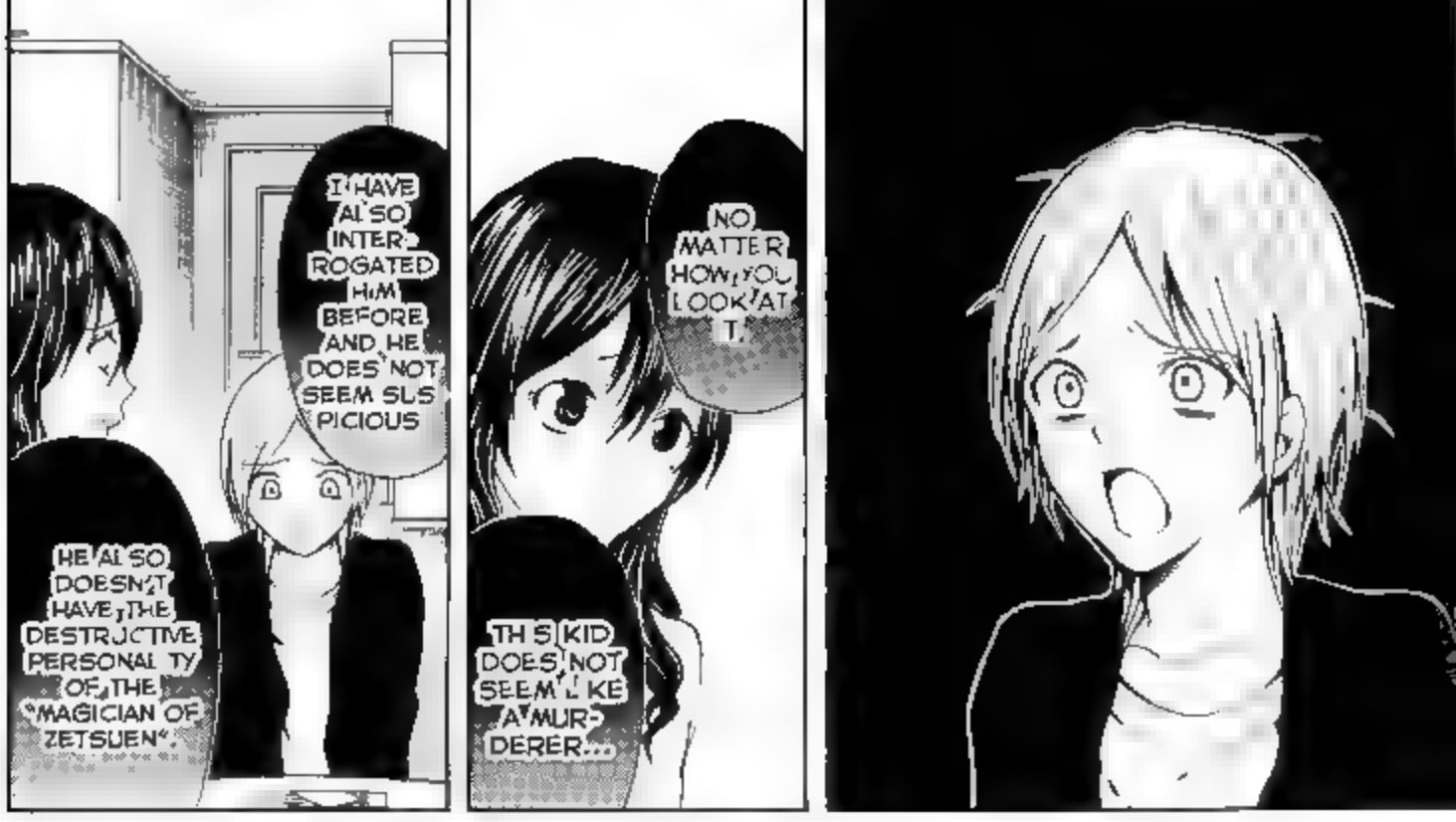
...WHO IS "AIKA"?

THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN" CAME UP AS THE PRIME SUSPECT!

Scratch Scratch

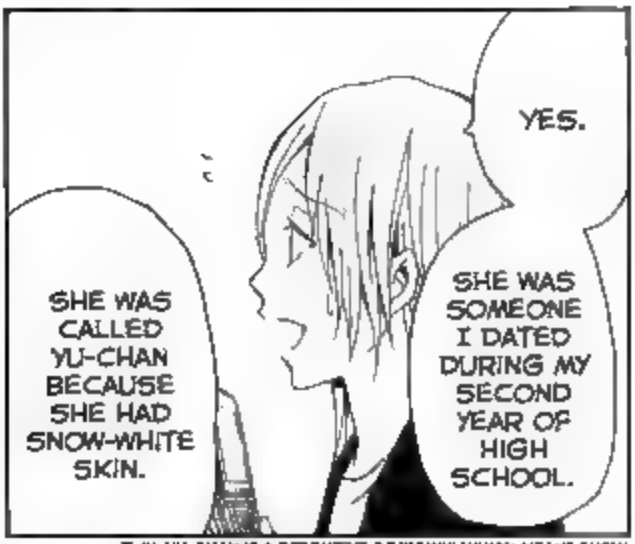
THEN,
AFTER USING MAGIC TO SEARCH FOR THE KILLER,

ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 23RD,
WHERE WERE YOU, AND WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
ANSWERS ME!

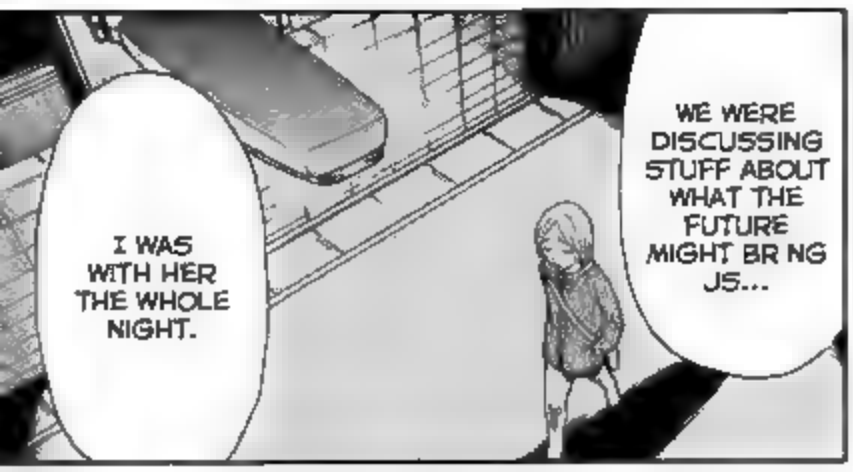

I HAVE ALSO INTERROGATED HIM BEFORE AND HE DOES NOT SEEM SUSPICIOUS
HE ALSO DOESN'T HAVE THE DESTRUCTIVE PERSONALITY OF THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN".
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT,
THIS KID DOES NOT SEEM LIKE A MURDERER...

I don't think he has any memory of it.
An alibi from about a year ago...
It is not such a simple matter to disregard all doubt.
...Although he does not seem suspicious on the surface,

November, last year! I still have it!
WAIT!
WAIT A MOMENT!




T/N: YU-CHAN IS A DERIVATIVE OF "YUKI" WHICH MEANS SNOW.



ALTHOUGH THAT MAY BE TRUE,
I WON'T LET YOU MEET UP WITH YU-CHAN.

.....

FOR YOUR INNOCENCE TO BE PROVEN
SO NOW WE JUST HAVE TO CONFIRM THAT. .

TH.S IS WAY TOO SUDDEN, AND SEEMS LIKE TROUBLE.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT DANGERS THERE MAY BE FOR HER.

WHY?

.....

FURTHER-MORE,

I DON'T WANT TO DRAG YU-CHAN INTO TH.S SITUATION!

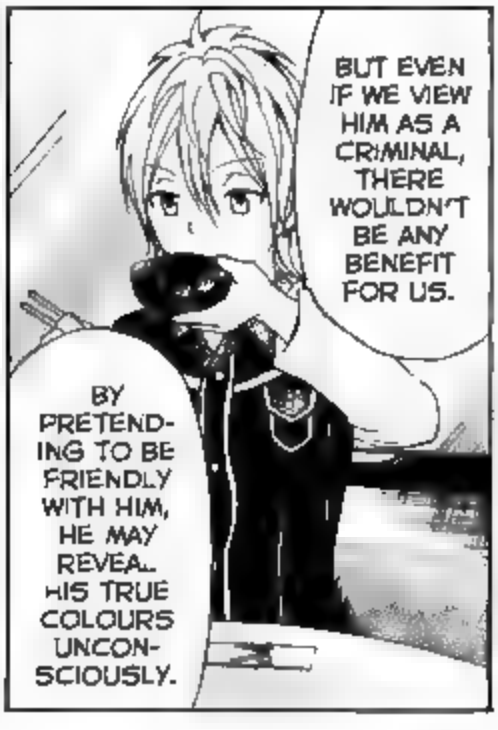
We just broke up recently, and our relationship is still pretty sour.
She rejected all my calls and emails. She also moved out of town. .
In other words, you can't even find her to vouch for you...
What an ambiguous answer.
Normally, one would not be able to remember things that happened a year ago.
It would actually be suspicious if he had an alibi.
But from the way he said it, it doesn't seem like he's lying.
It seems like he's telling the truth.
There was no evidence left at the scene of the crime.
Is he capable of killing Aika and leaving no evidence behind?
This was just as Hakaze said.
This guy...

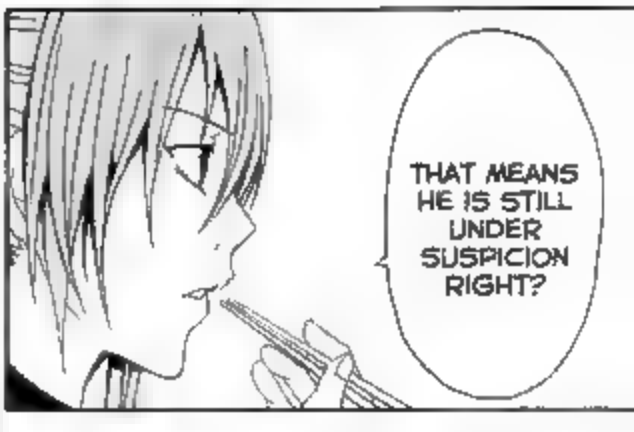
I DON'T THINK HE KILLED AIKA.
WE'LL ASSUME HE'S INNOCENT.

...SAMON.
IT'S FINE.

THEN WE WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.
THIS GUY MAY HAVE JUST BEEN ACTING THE ENTIRE TIME.

BUT IS IT POSSIBLE TO USE MAGIC TO ALTER YOUR PERSONALITY?
HE MIGHT HAVE ANOTHER CRUEL SIDE THAT HE HAS BEEN HIDING.

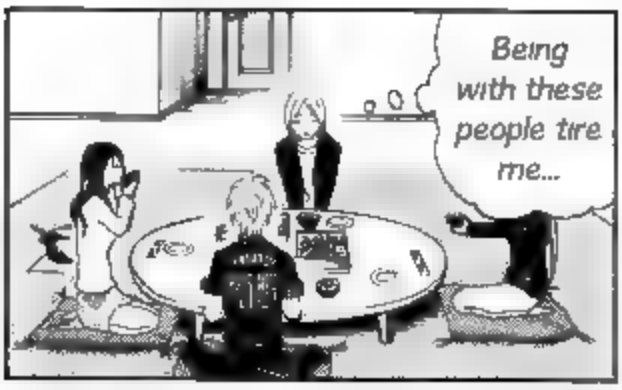

BUT EVEN IF WE VIEW HIM AS A CRIMINAL, THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY BENEFIT FOR US.
BY PRETENDING TO BE FRIENDLY WITH HIM, HE MAY REVEAL HIS TRUE COLOURS UNCONSCIOUSLY.


THAT MEANS HE IS STILL UNDER SUSPICION RIGHT?

YES.

BUT IF WE SPEAK LIKE THIS, IT MAY MAKE YOU SHOW YOUR TRUE COLOURS ANYWAY.
IF WE WERE TO CONTINUE INTERROGATING YOU, YOU MIGHT BE MORE ALERT AND SO MORE CAREFUL TO COVER YOUR TRACKS.
IS THIS WHAT YOU'D SAY ABOUT SOMEONE RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU?
IF YOU WERE THE CRIMINAL YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THROUGH THIS EASILY.
AH...
AN IMAGINARY GIRL-FRIEND?
THE YU-CHAN THIS GUY MENTIONED ...
DOES SHE EVEN EXIST?
FURTHER MORE,
ARE YOU SUSPICIOUS OF EVEN THINGS LIKE THIS?
EVERYONE,
DOES SHE REALLY EXIST?
HMM... HE JUST MIGHT BE A STALKER WHO THINKS HE'S HER GIRLFRIEND.
STALKING ... THAT TOO, IS ALSO A CRIME.

WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE YOU ANYWAY.
OF COURSE.


Being with these people tire me...

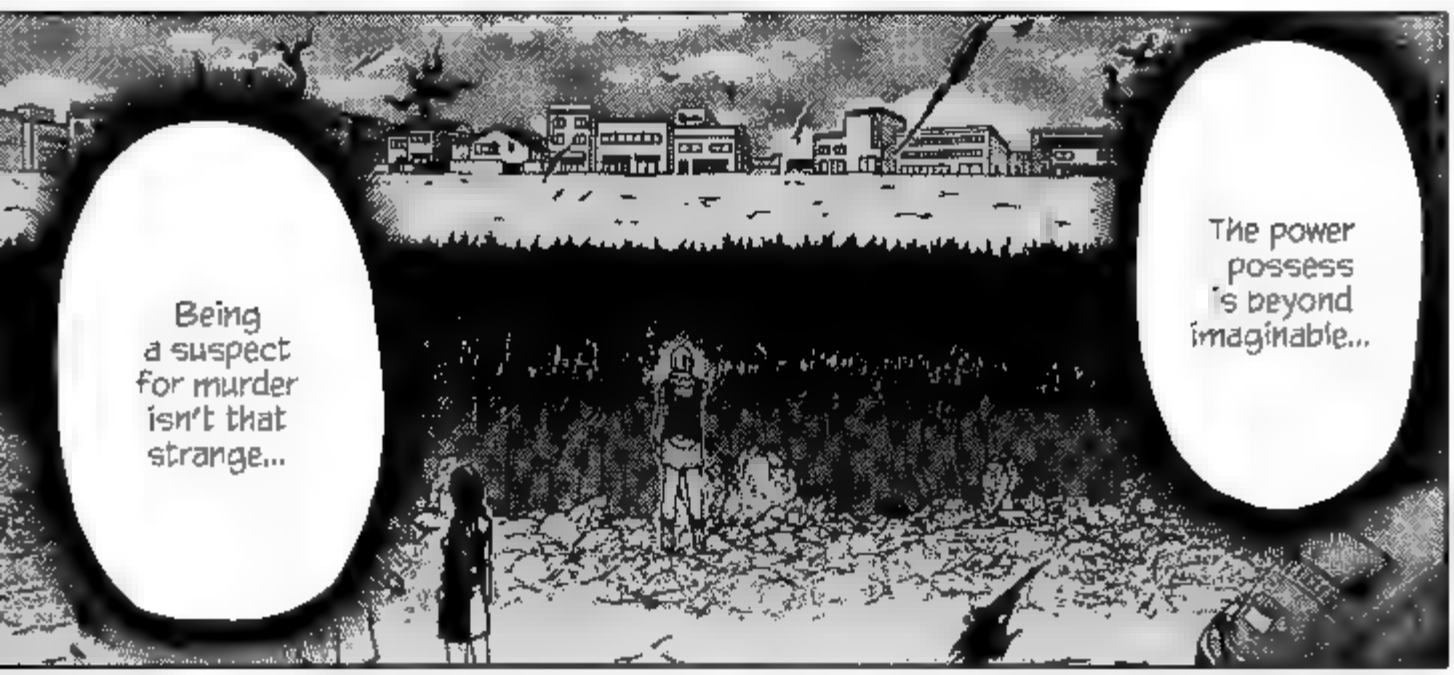
THERE IS NOTHING SPECIAL.
YOU COULD LIVE AS YOU HAVE BEEN DOING SO FAR.

MAY I ASK SOME-THING...?
HOW WILL I LIVE FROM NOW ON?

I DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO,
SO, PLEASE EXPLAIN ME MORE ABOUT THIS SITUATION.

TRUSTING THE PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT OF YOU AS A SUSPECT UNTIL NOW, IS NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN HAPPEN R.GHT AWAY.

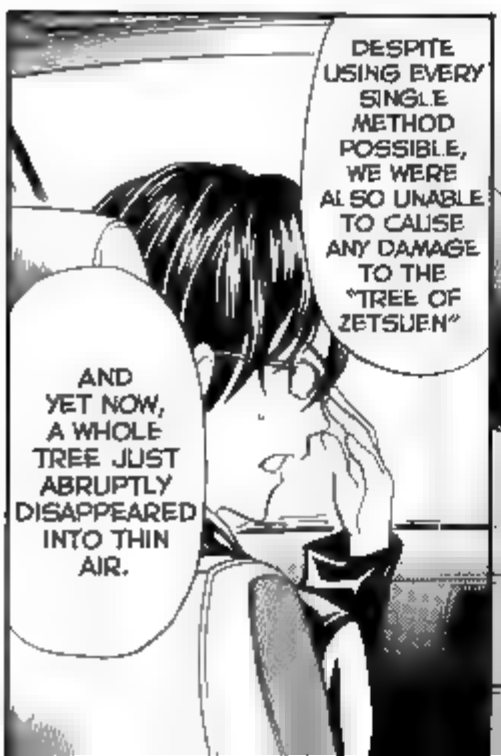
Yes...
WE MUST BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL WHEN FACING HIM.
BUT THE POWER OF THE "MAGIC.AN OF ZETUEN" IS ABLE TO ANNIHILATE US IN AN INSTANT
EXCUSE ME FOR SUDDENLY SAYING THIS,


Being a suspect for murder isn't that strange...
The power possess is beyond imaginable...

should stay here for the time being.
Since 'm free to go out anyt'me,
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
WE COULD ALSO TEACH YOU ABOUT MAGIC.
IF IT'S A..RIGHT WITH YOU, YOU COULD STAY HERE WITH US.

EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE HALTED BROAD-CASTING THE NEWS,
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE CAN KEEP THIS A SECRET...

I GIVE UP...
THE MEDIA HAS LATCHED ONTO THE STORY SO EARLY.


DESPITE USING EVERY SINGLE METHOD POSSIBLE, WE WERE ALSO UNABLE TO CAUSE ANY DAMAGE TO THE "TREE OF ZETSUEN"
AND YET NOW, A WHOLE TREE JUST ABRUPTLY DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE KEPT A SECRET

SOME OF THE PEOPLE BELIEVE,
THAT THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN".
I HAVE A FEELING THAT THE TREE MIGHT HAVE BEEN BURNED.
Sigh
HE MIGHT NOT BE PLANNING TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS"
EVEN IF THIS WAS DONE BY THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN,"
THERE IS A RUMOR CIRCULATING AROUND THE INTERNET,
THAT HE'S THE PRELUDE TO THE DEFEAT OF THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS".
I'M NOT SURE.
WHAT DO THE HIGHER-UPS THINK ABOUT THIS?
IF THIS INCIDENT ISN'T HANDLED PROPERLY, IT MAY WELL CAUSE A PANIC.

DO WE HAVE ANY IDEAS ON HOW TO STOP THE BROAD-CAST?
WE ALSO HAVE TO REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THIS.
WHICH MEANS...
Cough
I HAVE A FEELING THAT SOMETHING UNEXPECTED WILL RESULT FROM THIS.
YOU...
SEEM TO HAVE SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS.
IF NOTHING SERIOUS HAPPENS AFTER THIS, THIS MATTER SHOULD BE SETTLED EASILY.
PLEASE DON'T THINK THAT WAY. YOU HAVE TO RETURN TO CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
ガチャ
I AM WAITING FOR THAT DAY.
BUT THIS IS RATHER IRONIC
I WAS DEMOTED AND WE'RE UNITED AGAINST UNDER THIS CRISIS.
I THOUGHT OF AN IDEA.

But what would Samon think about this?
This is a good idea...
.....
If only he would agree with me. But...

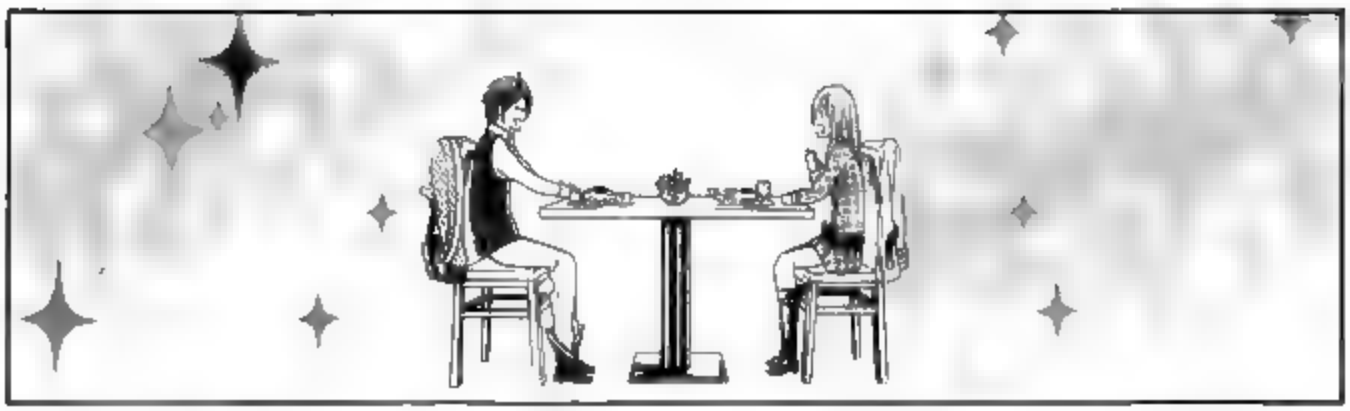
AH.

ARE MAHIRO'S GRADES REALLY THAT GOOD?

YES, HE IS AMONG THE TOP SCORERS IN THE COUNTRY.

HE HAS A PHOTO-GRAPH.C MEMORY. ALL HE NEEDS TO DO IS READ THE BOOK ONCE, AND HE CAN REMEMBER IT ALL.

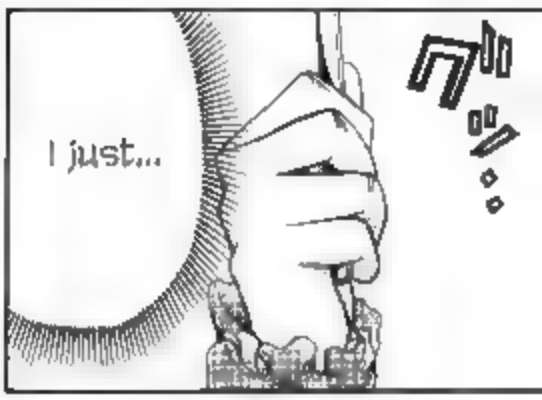
I BELIEVE THAT YOU JUST DON'T HAVE TO THE MOTIVATION TO WORK FOR IT.
RATHER THAN SAYING THAT YOU DON'T HAVE GOOD GRADES,
HOW ABOUT YOUR GRADES?
THEN,
THEY'RE NOT THAT GREAT, BUT THEY'RE NOT TOO BAD EITHER...
ABOUT THAT...
Haha!
Isn't this a date?!
Having breakfast together, talking and laughing side-by-side...
Oh no!



.....!

Begin to like him more and more!

But during times like this,
have to give up on Yoshino.

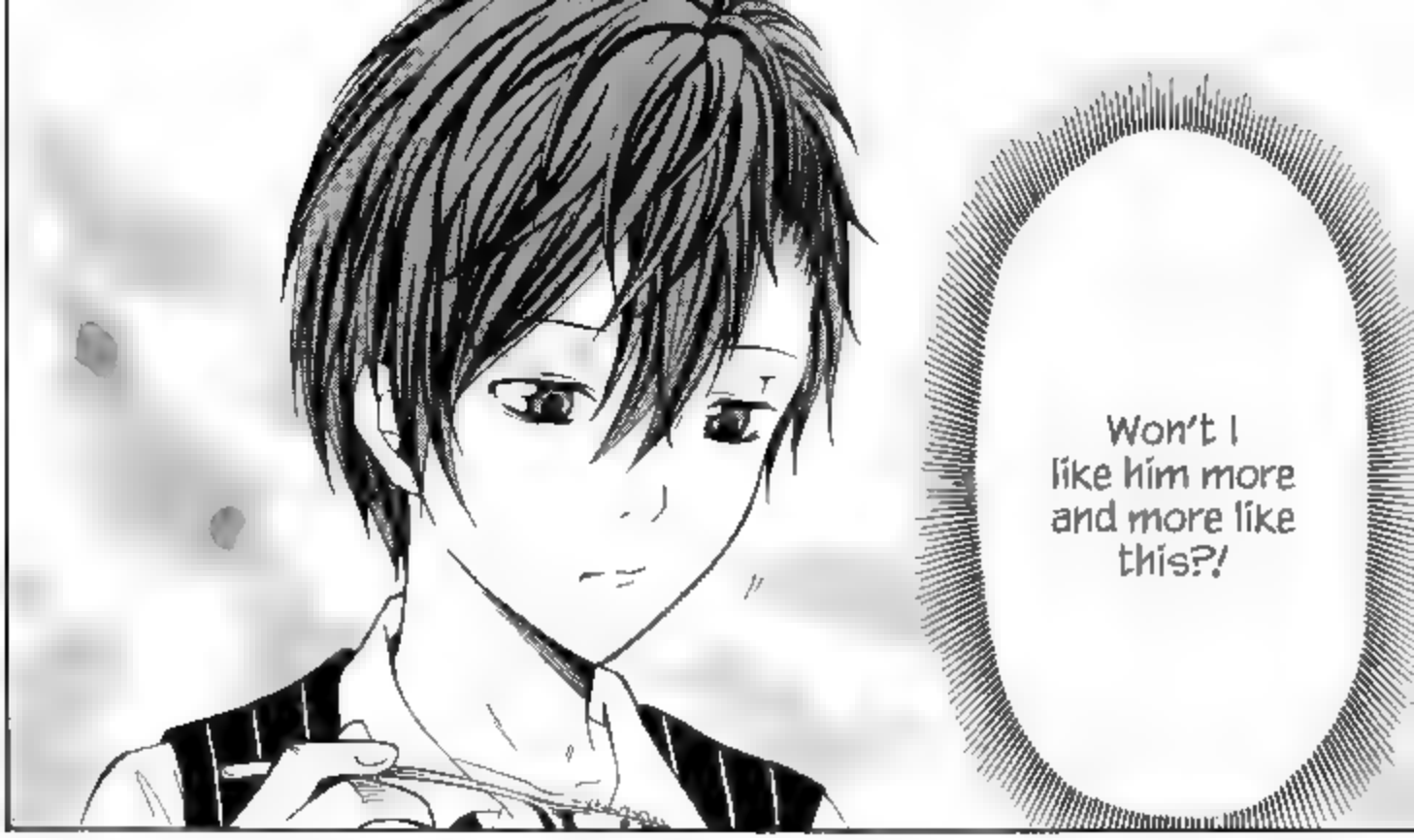

I just...
ﾌﾞﾙﾌﾞﾙ

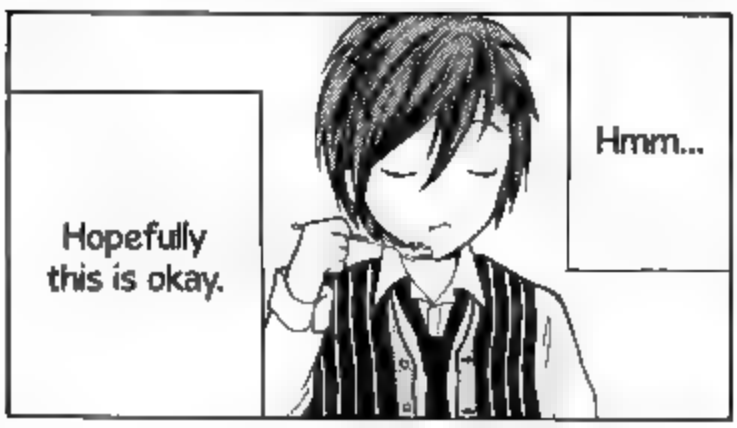
I wonder if she's okay.
She won't tell me what they were talking about, but there should be a reason, shouldn't there?

it's pretty nice now that she isn't as serious as before...
However,
ﾁﾗｯ

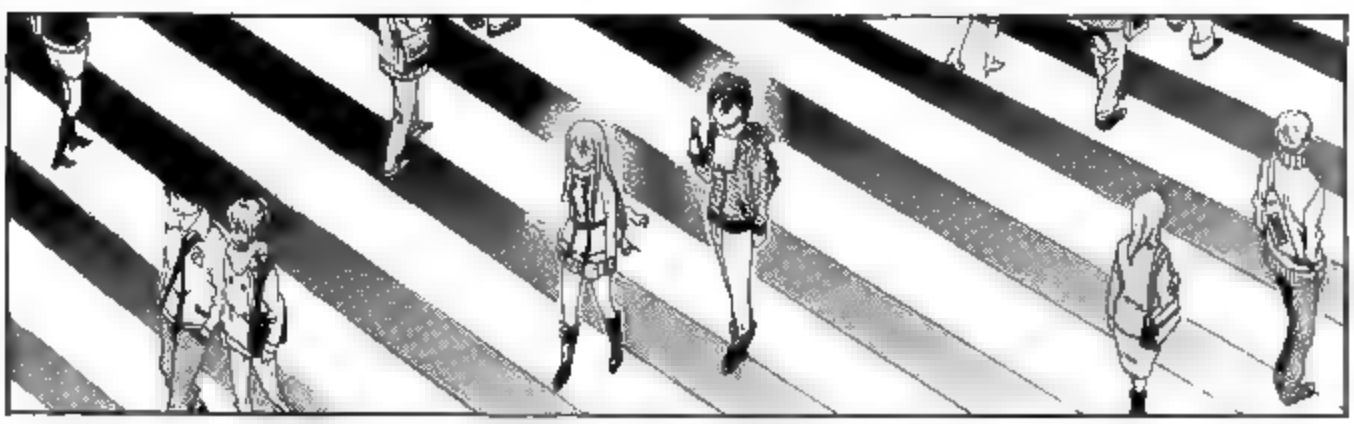
Three days ago, ever since meeting with Juunichirou-san,
Hakaze-san has begun to act strange.

Speaking of which,
Why hasn't Yoshino noticed that I like him?!
S'nce he has a girlfriend, shouldn't he be sensitive to a girl's feelings?
But he doesn't seem to notice my feelings at all!
No!
Maybe it's because he has someone he loves. That's why he ignores every other girl!
Nod
Nod
...Oh no!
I found another of Yoshino's good points!
Yes! This is what being a man is all about.
I hate men who are not faithful to their girl-friends!


Won't I like him more and more like this?!

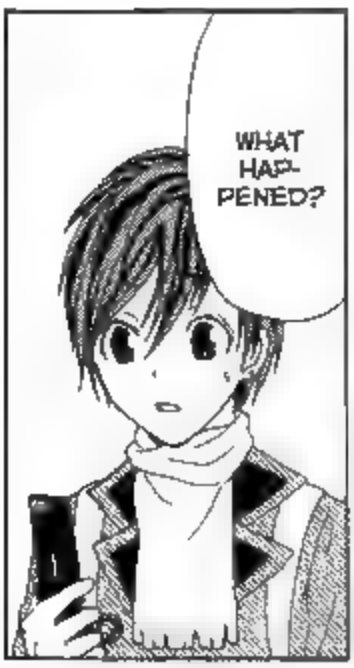

Hopefully this is okay.
Hmm...

Aaa...



WHERE SHOULD WE GO NEXT?

How can I give up on Yoshino?
SHOULDN'T WE GO TO A PLACE BLESSED BY IT?
RATHER THAN GOING TO A PLACE HURT BY THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS,"
I don't, but...
I don't want that to happen.
The "Tree of Beginnings" may hurt Yoshino's girlfriend.
If I don't harden my resolve now,
How will Yoshino view me if that happens?
No!
If I don't give up on him soon...
This might cause the "Tree of Beginnings" to kill Yoshino's girlfriend!
A part of me wishes that Yoshino doesn't have a girlfriend, can't change this.


WHAT HAP-PENED?

Ah! I got it!

HUH?

C'MON, TELL ME.

Yoshino.
What is your girlfriend like?

DOES SHE HAVE A BETTER PERSONALITY? IS SHE SMARTER THAN ME?
TELL ME!

FOR EXAMPLE,
DOES THIS G.RL HAVE MORE STYLE THAN ME?

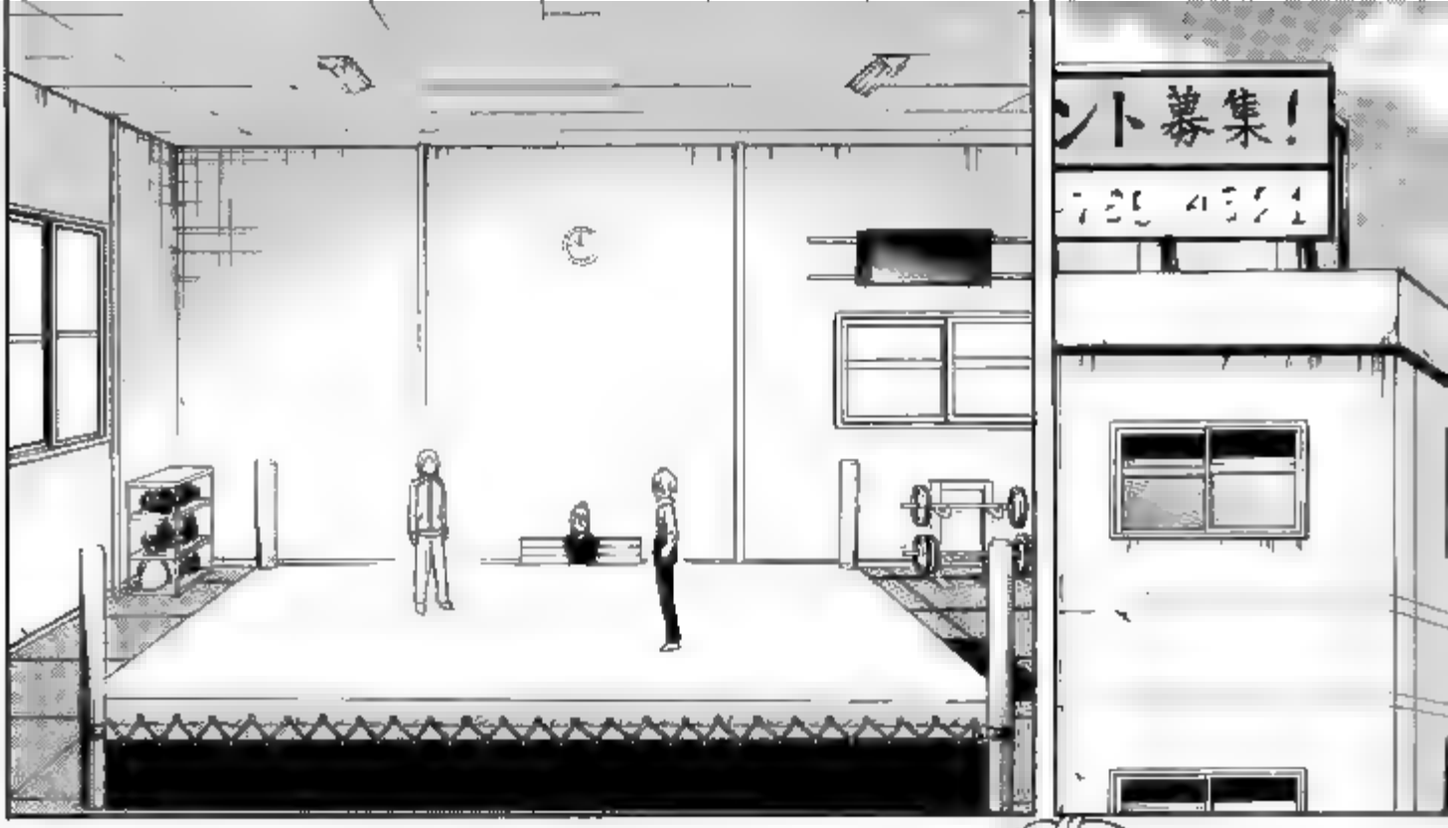
IF YOU CAN'T DESCRIBE HER, THEN TELL ME ABOUT THE TIMES YOU SPENT WITH HER.
LIKE WHERE YOU GUYS WENT DATING OR SOME-THING.

Hakaze-san is at this age already. Having a romantic interest and trying to find out more about it is not surprising...
IN OTHER WORDS...
Or is this just her curiosity?
She's trying to test if Aika-chan is my girlfriend?
A guy like Yoshino would definitely have a girlfriend better than me!
Why didn't I realize this sooner!
This is such a great idea!
Yes, yes.
WHAT KIND OF GIRL IS SHE?
will realize that I can never compare to her and then give up on Yoshino.
If I know more about this girl,

MY GIRL-FRIEND IS A DIFFERENT TYPE OF GIRL THAN HAKAZE-SAN.
BUT SHE IS EXTREMELY BEAUTIFUL...

If I try to change the subject, she might become suspicious of me.
I'll try to describe Aika-chan without exposing her name...

LET'S SEE...


ント募集!

ER... WHY IS MAHIRO-KUN MY MAGIC INSTRUCTOR?
ISN'T HE UNABLE TO USE MAGIC?

YES.
IF I HAD TALISMANS, THEN I WOULD BE ABLE TO USE MAGIC. BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT NOW

Then,
Let's begin.

HE WILL TRAIN YOU FOR THREE DAYS.
AFTER YOU GET USED TO CONTROLLING YOUR POWERS, EVEN IF NO ONE GUIDES YOU, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO WIELD MAGIC EASILY..

WHY IS MAHIRO-KUN THE ONE TEACHING ME?
STILL,
THAT IS BECAUSE OF THE IMBALANCE BETWEEN YOUR POWER AND YOUR WILL.
MANIPULATING THE WAYS OF USING MAGIC WOULD BE A NATURAL THING FOR YOU.
...BY YOURSELF.
THAT IS WHY MAHIRO WILL TRAIN YOU IN THESE AREAS.
HE WILL CULTIVATE YOUR WILL AND RESOLVE FOR BATTLE.
IN A CRITICAL MOMENT, A SINGLE HESITATION COULD COST YOU YOUR LIFE.
FEAR WOULD CAUSE DISRUPTION WHEN YOU USE YOUR MAGIC.
BULLIED...
IF YOU ARE GETTING BULLIED BY SOMEONE YOUNGER THAN YOU.
YOU MAY BE MORE MOTIVATED,

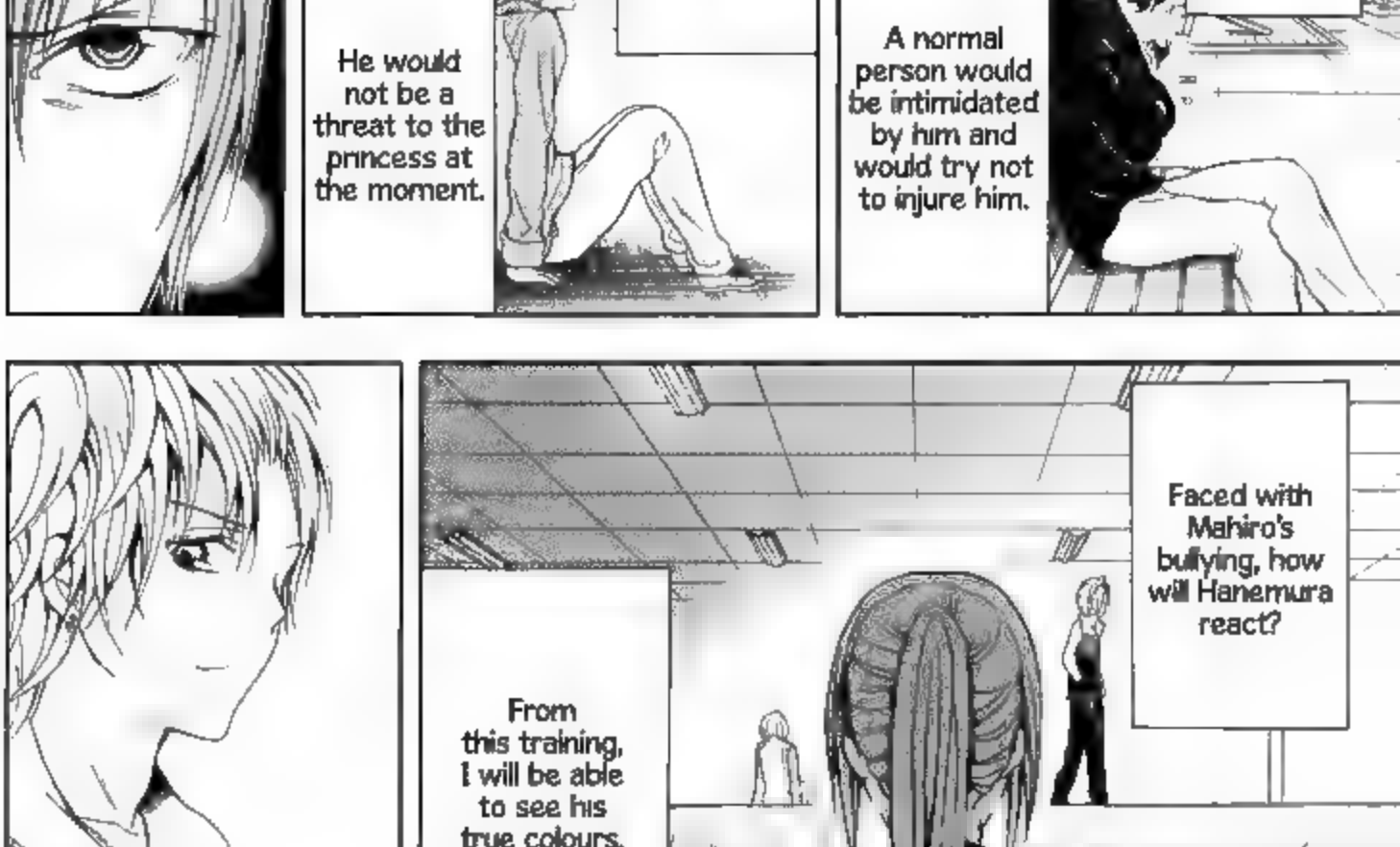
THAT HURTS!

USE ANY-THING OR WHATEVER MAGIC YOU WANT.
TRY TO BEAT ME TO THE GROUND.
THIS IS TRAINING.
YOU ATTACKED ME WITHOUT ANY WARNING!

AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF THAT?
IF I WERE TO GET SERIOUS, I COULD RIP YOU APART IN AN INSTANT.
I AM THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN".
USE ANYTH.NG?

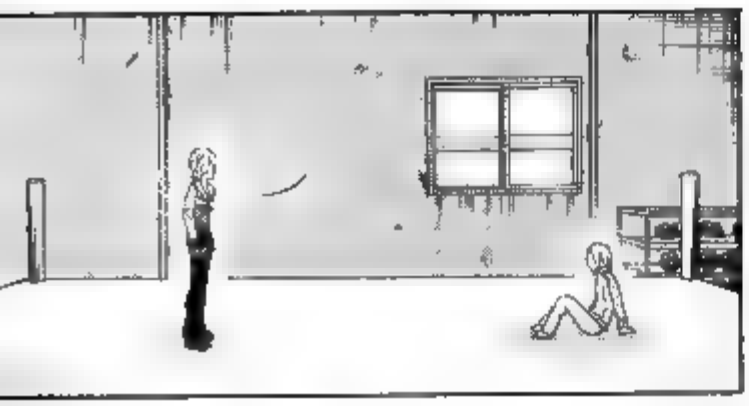
WHAT IS THERE TO BE AFRAID OF?
IF I RECEIVE ANY SERIOUS INJURIES, SAMON WILL HEAL ME.
I STILL HAVE SOME VALUE. . SO HE WOULDN'T JUST LEAVE ME TO DIE.
USING MY POWER,
I CAN KILL YOU IF I WANT TO...
BUT THEN,
WOULDN'T YOU ALSO BE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE?
IS THAT RIGHT.
Hmm
IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME, THEN BY ALL MEANS, DO SO.
EVEN IF I DIE,
YOSHINO AND HAKAZE WOULD AVENGE ME.
IF YOU CAN GO THAT FAR, THAT WOULD MAKE YOU AIKA'S KILLER.
AT THAT MOMENT, I WOULD CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE THE MURDERER.

SAMON ALSO WOULDN'T IGNORE THIS.
HE WOULD NOT TREAT SOMEONE LIKE THAT AS A COMRADE.
N..


Now then...
He would not be a threat to the princess at the moment.
Furthermore, even if Hanemura concealed his murderous side,
A normal person would be intimidated by him and would try not to injure him.
...He is very good at playing mind games.

From this training, I will be able to see his true colours.
Faced with Mahiro's bullying, how will Hanemura react?

I also want to know.
That's fine with me.



To confirm Hanemura's true colours.
Samon intends to use me,

ALRIGHT.

THE TIME LIMIT IS 3 MINUTES.
SAMON, YOU BE THE TIME KEEPER

HEY, STAND UP.

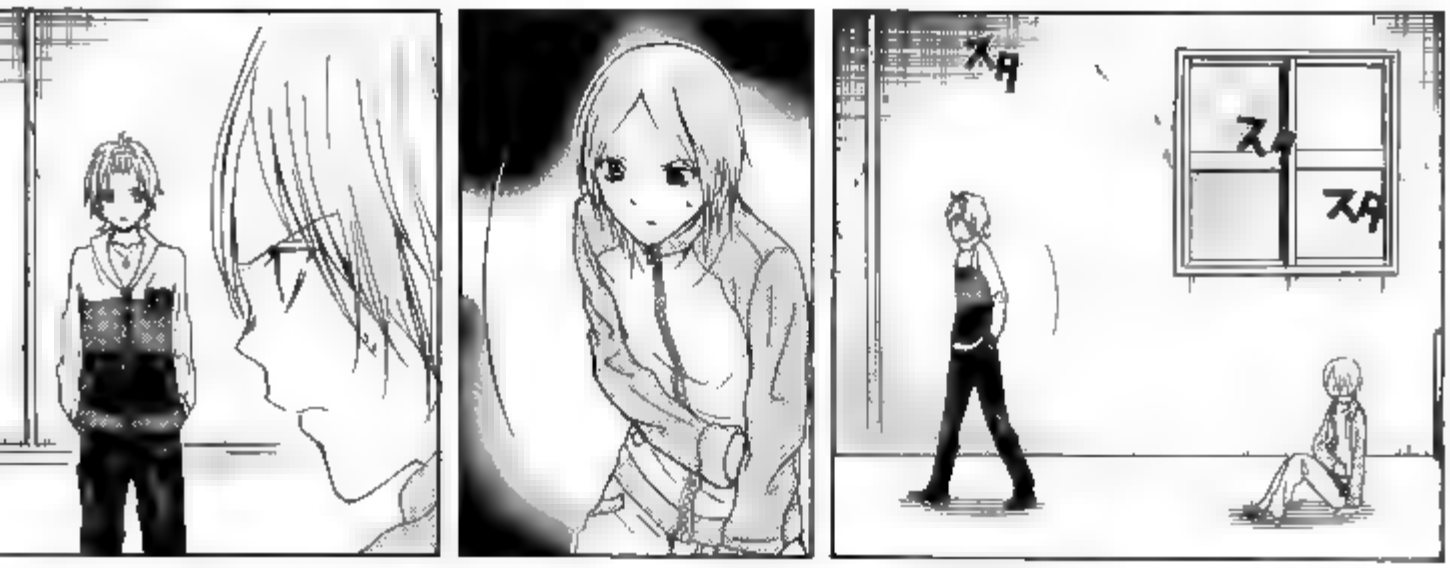
Beating Mahiro-kun,
Shouldn't be that hard, right?

THE ONLY RULE IS TO NOT KILL YOUR OPPONENT IN THIS SITUATION, USE YOUR MAGIC POWERS TO BEAT HIM.

EVEN IF YOU MAKE HIM BLEED ALL OVER, IT'S FINE AS LONG AS HE IS ALIVE.
カチッ
TAPPA
00:01 85

I'll just attack him from a distance, then...
GASP
WHAT ARE YOU DAY-DREAMING ABOUT?
IF YOU WANT TO USE MAGIC, JUST DO IT!

BUT THEN..
RECK-LESSLY ATTACKING IS ALSO NOT A GOOD TACTIC!
ONCE YOU HESITATE, YOU WILL LOSE CON-FIDENCE.
DON'T WASTE TIME, ATTACK ME NOW!



Once use my offensive magic, Mahiro-kun will not be able to get close to me.
The key to defeating him would appear then.

ARGH!

I CAN'T DO THAT!
PREVIOUSLY, I SLICED UP HAKAZE-SAN'S ARM AND THAT CAUSED ME TO FEAR MY POWER. I AM VERY CAREFUL ABOUT HOW I USE MY MAGIC!
I DON'T EVEN NEED TO THINK TO GET CLOSE AND ATTACK YOU.
I COULD TELL THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO HIT ME WITH THAT
ATTACK ME, EVEN IF IT MEANS CUTTING OF MY HANDS AND LEGS.
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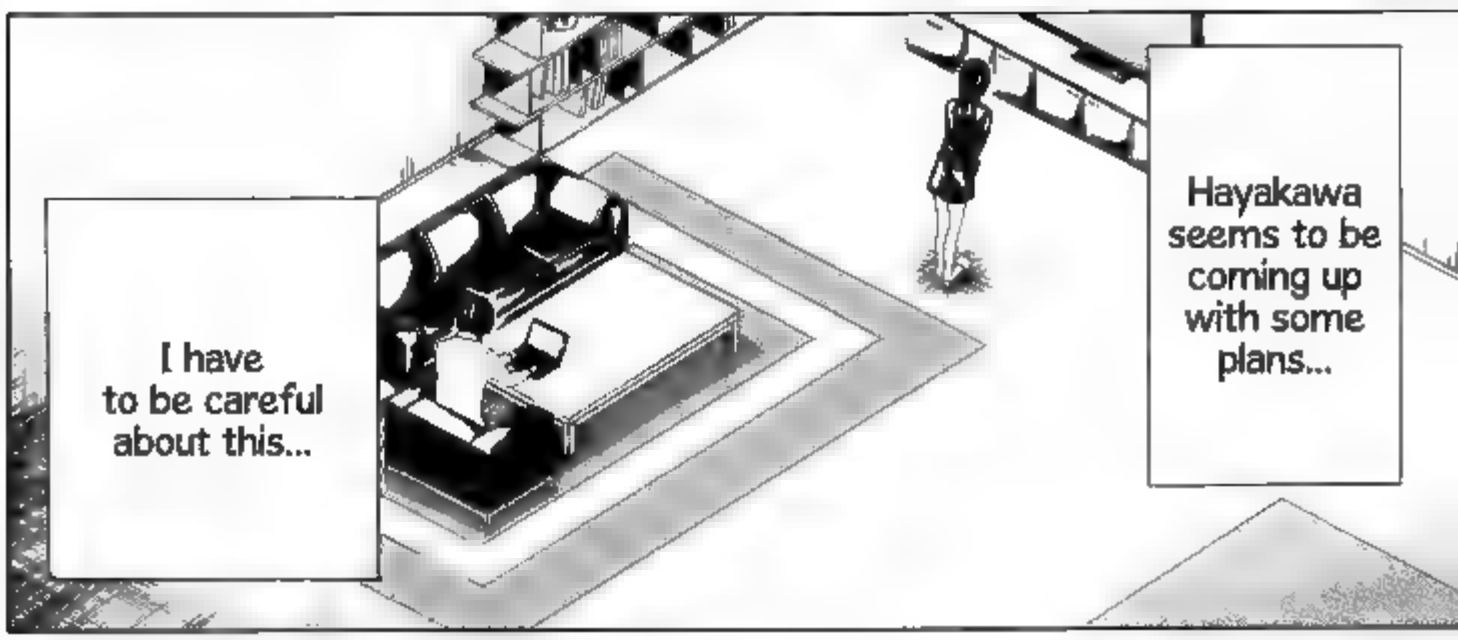
ｽﾀ
ｽﾀ
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
THEN CONQUER THAT FEAR!
.....
Power... His power is that of the "Magician of Zetsuen".
But his will is too weak.
I feel like I don't even have a single chance of winning!
How... What can I do?

No, maybe...
If that is the case then Takigawa Yoshino seems more like a true "Magician of Zetsuen".

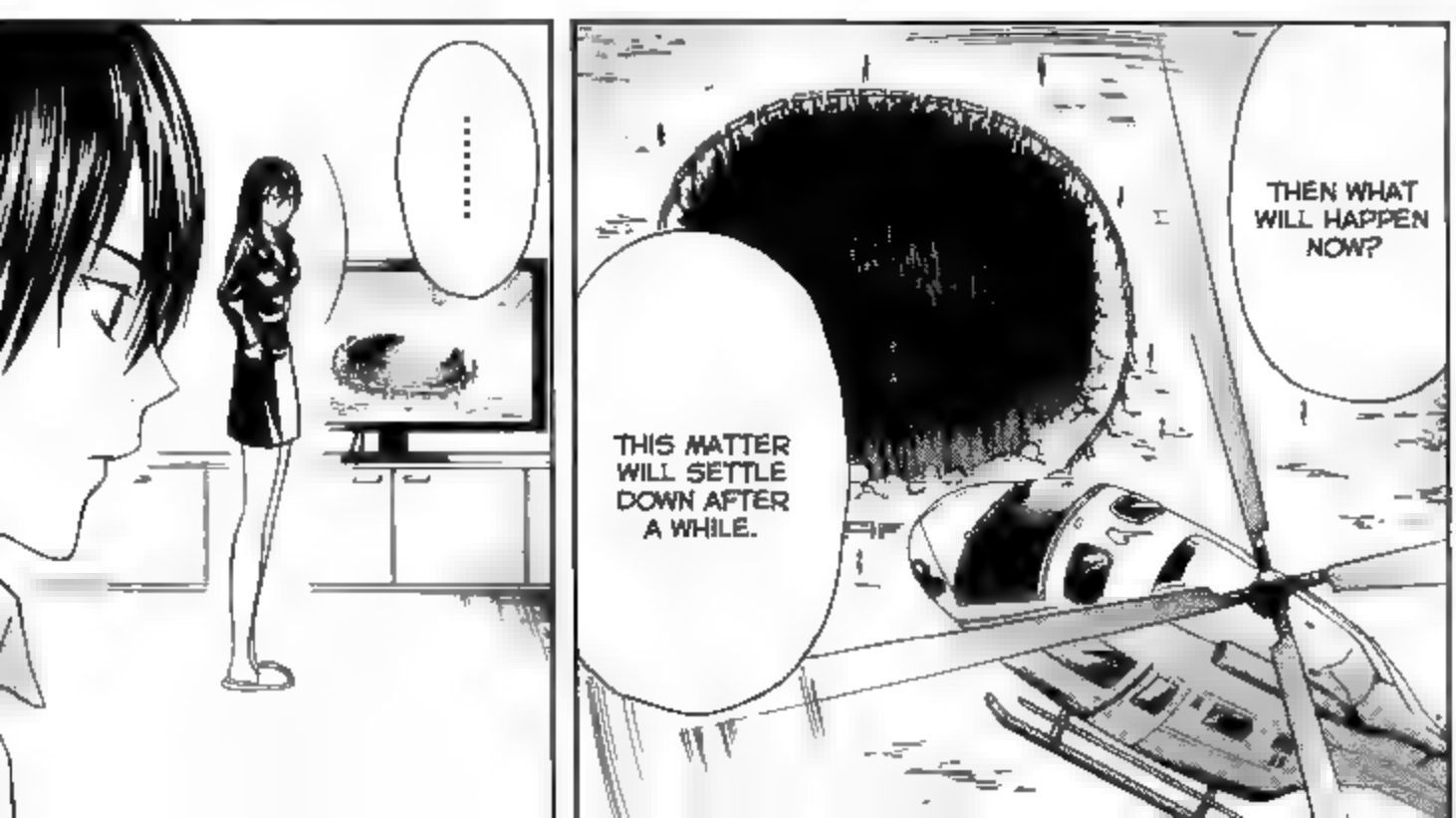

I have to be careful about this...
Hayakawa seems to be coming up with some plans...

IT'S THE TREE THAT GOT DESTROYED BY HANE-MURA-KUN!
IN THE END, THE NEWS WAS STILL BROAD-CASTED!

THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING TREE
OH NO!

WE COULDN'T KEEP IT A SECRET.
THE GOVERN-MENT ALSO GAVE UP ON COVERING IT
THAT'S BECAUSE, EVEN FROM AFAR, THE AREA THAT THE TREE DISAPPEARED FROM IS STILL VISIBLE.

THE PRINCESS SAID,
THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" WILL NOT HAVE ANY REACTION TO IT.
THAT EVEN IF 10 OR 20 OF THOSE TREES WERE DESTROYED,
WOULDN'T THIS CAUSE THE PUBLIC TO PANIC?

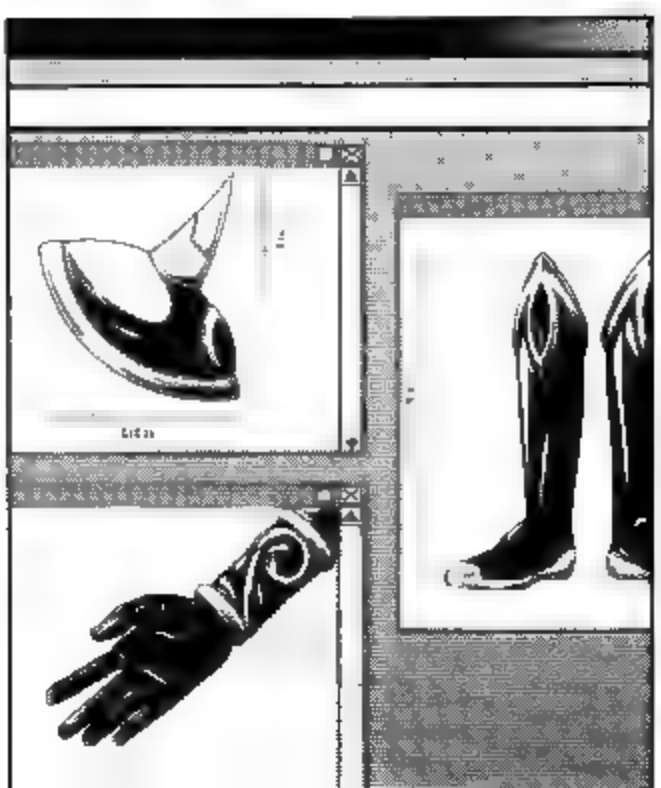

.....
THIS MATTER WILL SETTLE DOWN AFTER A WHILE.
THEN WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW?

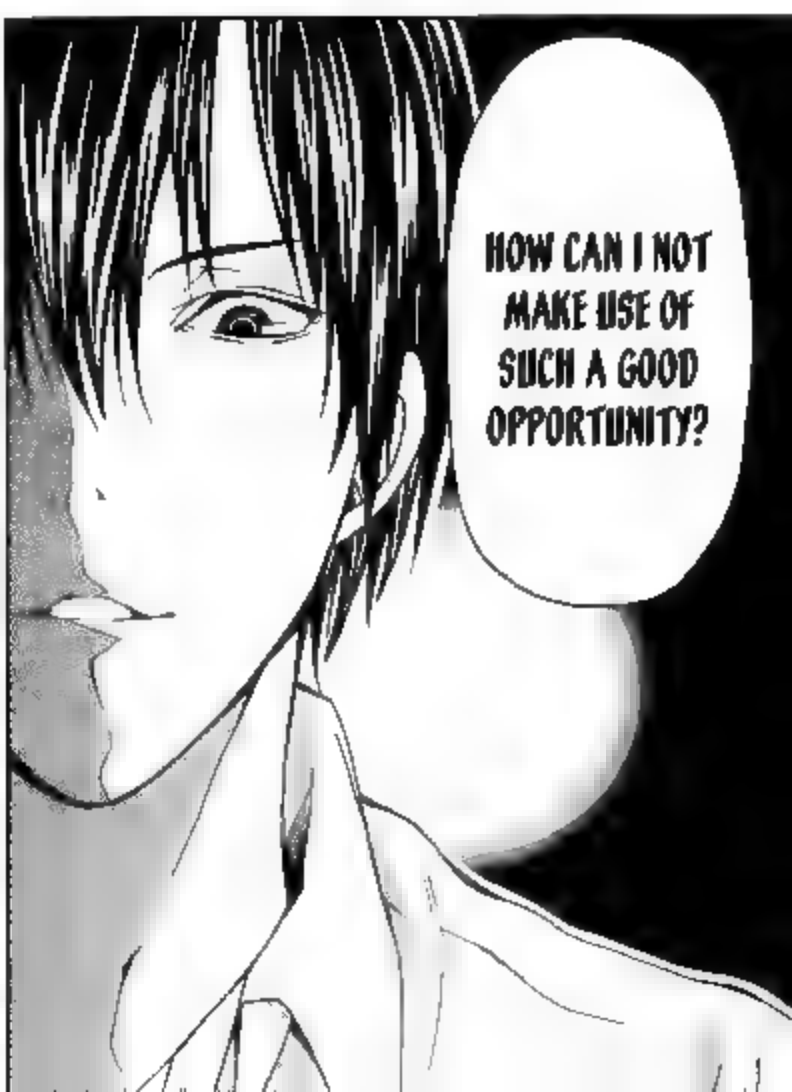
DON'T MAKE IT SOUND LIKE I HAVE SOME EVIL PLAN BREWING.

BUT,
JUDGING BY YOUR EXPRESSION, THAT'S NOT INTERESTING ENOUGH?

HOWEVER,

LIVE
消失
IT WOULD CAUSE THE WHOLE WORLD TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS".
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN...




HOW CAN I NOT MAKE USE OF SUCH A GOOD OPPORTUNITY?

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# ZETSUEN NO TEMPEST

by SHIRODAIRA Kyou and SAIZAKI Ren

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## ZetSuen no Tempest ch 21

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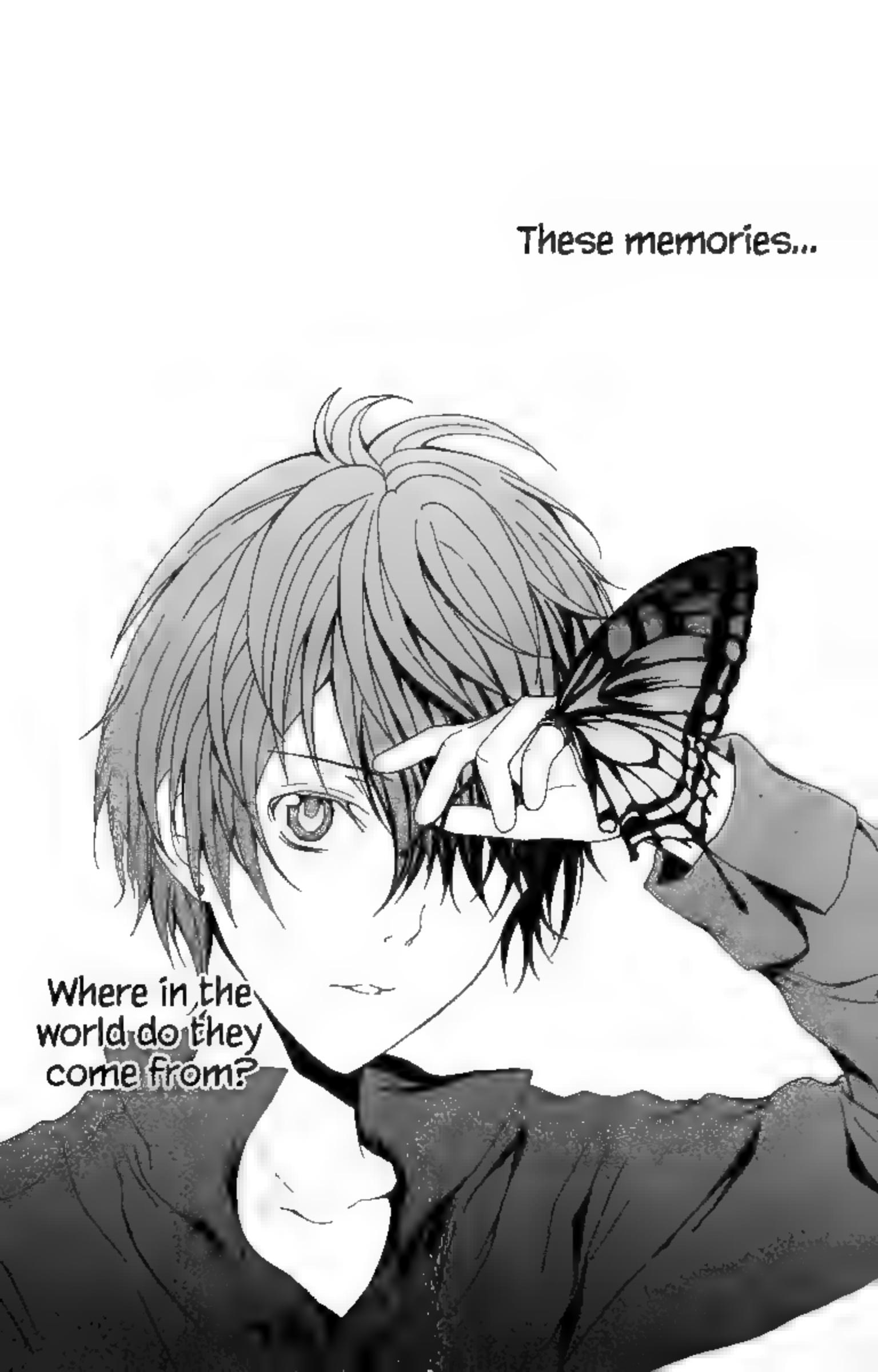
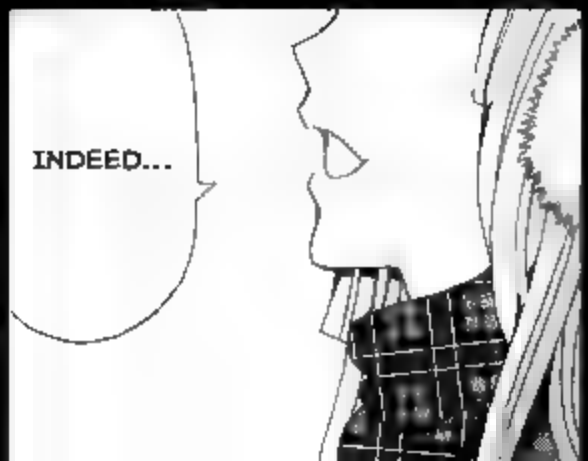

These memories...
Where in the world do they come from?

CHAPTER 22: MARINE SNOW

THE CIVILIZATION BLASTER

HUH...
ARE THESE HANDMADE?
THEY LOOK HANDMADE.
IN OTHER WORDS,
THEY'RE HAND-MADE, AREN'T THEY?

T/N: YUSEN= WARMING SOMETHING BY IMMERSING IT IN HOT WATER.



EATING CHOCOLATE AND WATCHING THE SNOW FALL WHILE SITTING SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND ON VALENTINE'S DAY...
IT REALLY DOES HAVE A SPECIAL FEELING TO IT DOESN'T IT?

THIS WAY,
I CAN ALWAYS BE TOGETHER WITH YOSHINO-SAN.
BUT TODAY IS TOO COLD I DON'T WANT TO STAY LIKE THIS.
YOU TALK TOO MUCH.
!?
THERE ARE CHOCO-LATES FROM OTHER GIRLS IN THIS BAG.
THEY'RE ACTING LIKE AS IF THEY'RE ALL YOUR GIRLFRIENDS.

I SEE.
THEN HOW ABOUT THIS?
IF I DIDN'T ACCEPT THEM?
WOULDN'T IT BE WEIRDER,
...BESIDES,
JUST IN CASE, I'LL BE KEEPING THESE.
OKAY, OKAY...
ARE YOU UPSET OR HAPPY? CAN'T YOU BE CLEARER ABOUT IT?
IF MY BOYFRIEND WAS SO UNPOPULAR THAT HE COULDN'T EVEN GET A SINGLE PIECE OF CHOCOLATE ON VALENTINE'S DAY,
THAT WOULD BE TROUBLESOME.

MARINE SNOW...
HUH?
I KNOW.
I'VE SEEN IT ON TV.
YOU DON'T KNOW?
IT'S SNOW THAT FALLS IN THE DEEP OCEAN.
THE MARINE SNOW DRIFTS ENDLESSLY.
YES. ONLY IN THE OCEAN.
IN THE DARK DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN, WHERE ONLY THE LIGHT OF A SUBMARINE CAN REACH.
IT'S SO GENTLE, AS IF THE FLOW OF TIME IS PERFECTLY BALANCED.
BECAUSE THEY ARE IN THE WATER, THE WAY THEY FLOAT, SO LEISURELY...
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT.

I WONDER ...
DO YOU GET THAT FEELING HERE?
WHAT ABOUT HERE?
I WANT US TO BE IN A SUBMARINE TOGETHER, JUST THE TWO OF US.
AND WATCH THE MARINE SNOW GENTLY DRIFT IN THE OCEAN.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, THIS MARINE SNOW,
I HEAR THEY'RE ACTUALLY THE GROUND REMAINS OF DEAD FISH AND PLANKTON.
THEY TURN NTO BITS OF WHITE MEAT AND FALL TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN,
ONLY GIVING IT THE AP- PEARANCE OF SNOW FALLING.
THE SNOW MIGHT EVEN BE,
FROM THE CARCASS OF A DEAD PERSON.
NO...
SNOW IS MADE OF ORDI- NARY ICE CRYSTALS.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A CRYSTAL- L ZED FORM WATER,
It could still be contaminated by the fumes from a factory or by the bodies of insects.
I'M SORRY. I'VE MADE YOU MAD HAVEN'T I?

T/N: IN JAPAN, WHITE DAY IS THE OPPOSITE OF VALENTINE'S DAY, WHEN MEN WHO RECEIVED EITHER A HONMEI-CHOCO (CHOCOLATE OF LOVE) OR GIRI-CHOCO (COURTESY CHOCOLATE) ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN THE FAVOR BY GIVING GIFTS TO THE ONES WHO GAVE THEM THE CHOCOLATE.

Ah! You should have said,
That she's a very knowledgeable and imaginative girl!

Though if Aika-chan were to quote Shakespeare,
She'll just say more disagreeable things.

HAHA... NAH...
SHE'S JUST DISAGREEABLE AND HAS A HARSH PERSONALITY, THAT'S ALL.

NO, NO... SHE REALLY WAS PRETTY HARSH.
SHE ADMITTED IT HERSELF.

SAYING YOUR OWN GIRLFRIEND HAS A HARSH PERSONALITY...
THAT SEEMS RATHER SWEET TO ME, ACTUALLY.

SO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SHE'S CLOSE TO, CLOSE ENOUGH TO REVEAL HER TRUE SIDE IS PRACTICALLY ZERO.
SHE ALREADY GIVES OFF AN AIR THAT MAKES IT HARD FOR PEOPLE TO APPROACH HER
AS LONG AS SHE IS N FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE, SHE DOES HER BEST TO SUPPRESS HER PERSONALITY.
WHETHER IT BE AT SCHOOL OR AT HOME,
Won't this anger your girlfriend?
With me.
Just two people traveling for such a long period of time.
.....
YOSHINO.
ISN'T IT WORSE THEN...?
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.

SAYING THAT WITH SUCH CONFIDENCE!
REALLY!
IS IT BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN WHO IS UNABLE TO ATTRACT MEN?
IS IT BECAUSE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND IS THAT MUCH PRETTIER THAN ME?
OR ARE YOU SAYING THAT COMPARED TO YOUR GIRLFRIEND,
Hihi
My personality is even worse?!
NO. HAKAZE-SAN IS A BEAUTY.
AND COMPARED TO HER, YOUR PER-SONALITY IS FINE.
A BEAUTY?!
.....

I SPOKE LIKE THIS TO HER...
DURING SUMMER VACATION,
COME TO THINK OF IT...
シャリ
シャリ
シャリ
IF I COULD INTRODUCE YOSHINO-SAN TO HER.
SOMEONE IN MY CLASS ASKED ME,

I ALSO SAID THAT I WASN'T GOING TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I INTRODUCE YOU TO HER.
I DARKENED MY EXPRESSION AND TOLD HER,
THAT YOU WERE ACTUALLY AN IMMORAL PERSON WITH A BANKRUPT PERSONALITY
OH?
BECAUSE OF THAT,
A PERSON SERIOUSLY DATING ME,
SHOULD HAVE A SOMEWHAT TWISTED PERSONALITY.
HOWEVER,
SHE BACKED OFF AFTER THAT
EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW THE REAL REASON...
IN REALITY THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH INTRODUCING YOU.
OH...
THIS MIGHT BE TRUE.

REALLY?
WHO KNOWS? SOMETHING UNBELIEVABLE COULD HAPPEN.
BECAUSE NOTHING GOOD WOULD RESULT IN ME INTRODUCING YOU.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S THE SAME AS NIPPING A BAD BUD BEFORE IT GROWS?
AFTER GOING OUT WITH YOSHINO-SAN,
I HAVE FOUND THAT...
IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN.
LIKEWISE, THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN GO OUT WITH YOSHINO-SAN,
IS ME.
THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN GO OUT WITH ME,
IS YOSHINO-SAN.

AT LEAST FOR ME,
ASIDE FROM YOSHINO-SAN, I WON'T CONSIDER ANYONE ELSE.
THE COURAGE TO BETRAY ME...
ARE YOU SAYING YOU HAVE IT, YOSHINO-SAN?

LOOK AT THIS ICE SHAVER.
AND THIS ICE HERE IS NOT ICE, BUT YOSHI-NO-KUN.
AND WHAT IF I DO?
Oh.
That doesn't sound like a joke.
I'LL USE THIS MECHANICAL ICE SHAVER.
AND SLOWLY CHURN YOUR BODY INTO LITTLE FROZEN BITS.
haha...
THAT'S BECAUSE ...
IT WASN'T A JOKE.

I ALSO,
HAVE NO INTEREST IN HUMAN SHAVED CE
EVEN IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART AND LIKE OTHER GIRLS, I WOULDN'T CARE.
BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY MORE GIRLS OUT THERE THAT ARE MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN ME.
BUT...
Something like that could never happen!

SHE DOESN'T BADMOUTH OTHER GIRLS.
BECAUSE OF THAT,

.....

DON'T EVEN MENTION BEING UNFAITHFUL... JUST GOING OUT WITH HER,
MAKES ME FEEL AS IF MY LIFE IS BEING DOMINATED.

A few days ago, I listened to many things regarding your girlfriend.
Yoshino,

THAT GIRL,
IS THE TYPE OF GIRL WHO MAKES ONE SUFFER, RIGHT?

As I thought.
That.

I have not heard a single good thing about her!
This is the worst!

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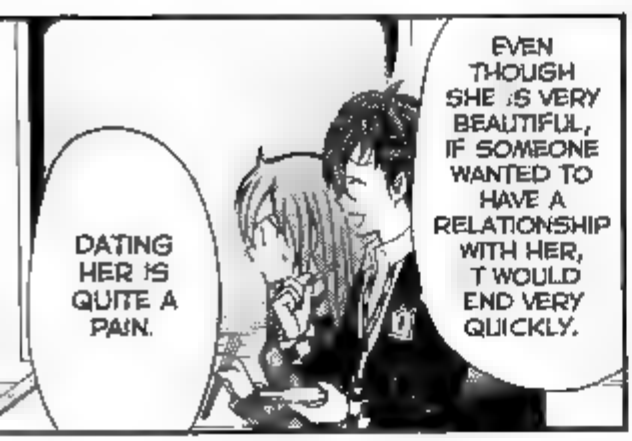
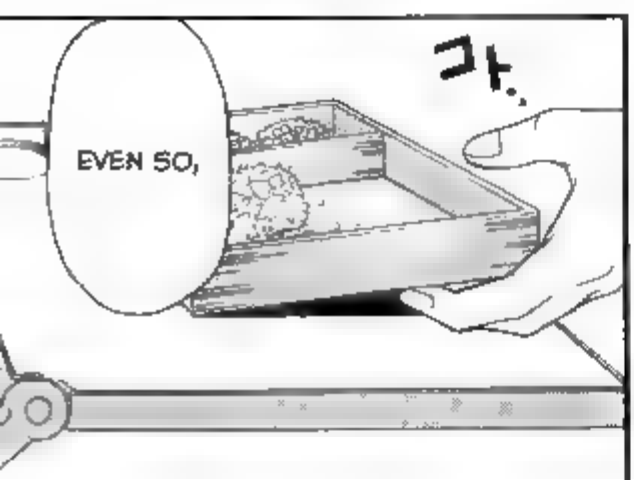
Compared to that twisted girl,
Am I not more suitable for Yoshino?!

I must accept that she is better than me!
NONONO! must give up on Yoshino!


DATING HER IS QUITE A PAIN.
EVEN THOUGH SHE IS VERY BEAUTIFUL, IF SOMEONE WANTED TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HER, T WOULD END VERY QUICKLY.

AH! I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
SHE IS INDEED A PERSON WHO MAKES OTHERS SUFFER.


EVEN SO,
그.

IT REALLY FEELS LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE.
TO HER,

Exactly!
To me,

IT'S NOT JUST THE FEELING OF LIKING OR HATING,
I'M CONVINCED THAT I AM IRREPLACE-ABLE TO HER.

Aaaahhh!!!
That's why I can't think that way!

You are also irre-placeable!
You're the only one!

She died one year ago...
Even if I'm with Hakaze-san she probably wouldn't mind...
IN THE END,
REGARDLESS OF WHAT KIND OF PERSON SHE IS,
ONCE YOU START LIKING HER IT'S TOO LATE.
That's absurd...
.....

YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE MAHIRO...
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
IT DOESN'T MATTER.

ス…
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN MENTIONED IT ONCE.
ANYWAY, WHAT'S YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S NAME?

ミヤキ
SECRETS ARE AN INHERENT PART OF ROMANCE, YOU KNOW?
THAT'S A SECRET.

What a jerk!
How can I completely give up Yoshino like this?
Things are getting worse and worse!
?

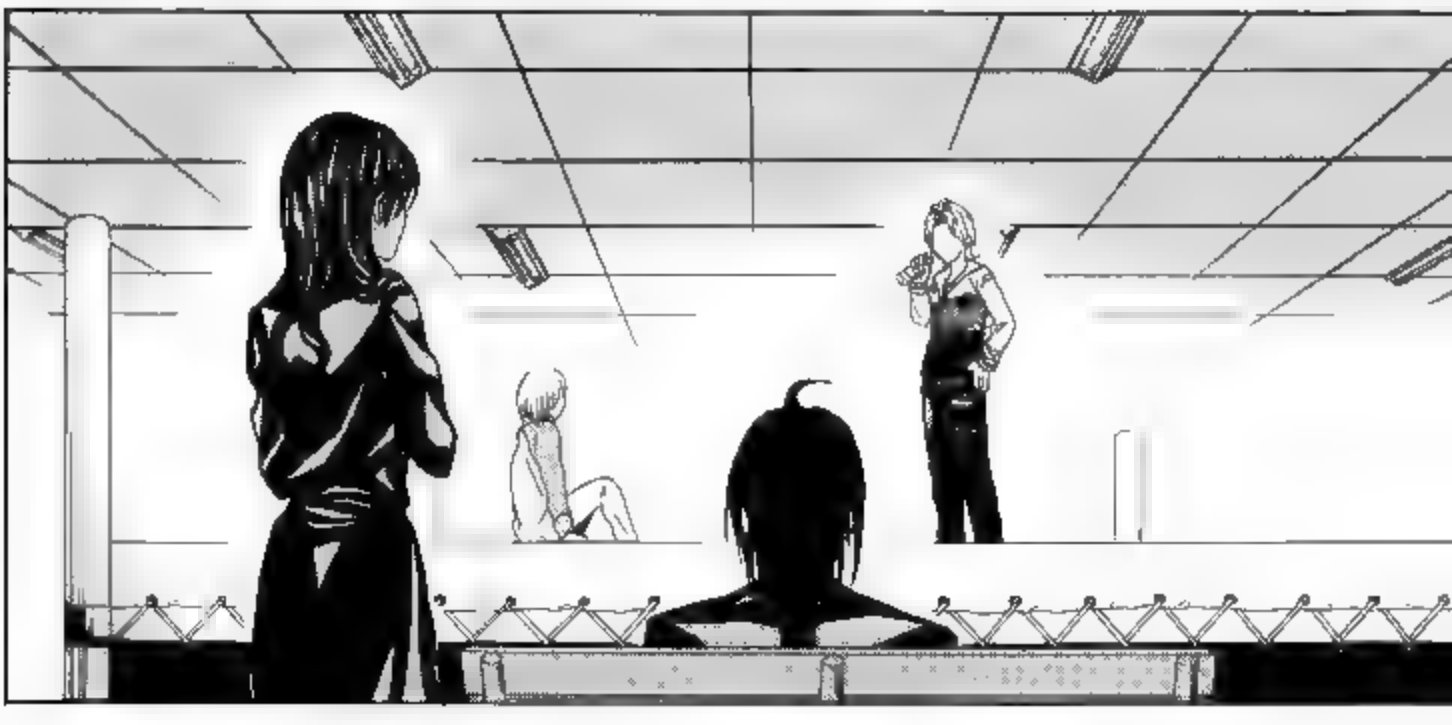
HAH!
GUHAH!!

AFTER TRAINING FOR 5 DAYS THERE SHOULD BE AT LEAST SOME IMPROVE-MENT.
EVEN THOUGH YOUR RANGE OF CONTROL HAS IN-CREASED,
IT'S ONLY TO THIS LEVEL.
THE MOST YOU CAN DO IS CUT CLOTHING.
BUT THIS ISN'T ENOUGH TO DEFEAT ME.
YOU NEED TO AT LEAST BE ABLE TO CUT TO THE BONE.
I... I told you!
Bleeding is a very scary thing!
If I were to accidentally cut you...
Even if it's you, you'd falter!
SO YOU SAY.

ぱしっ

I WOULDN'T BE SCARED EVEN IF MY BONES WERE SLICED. REMEMBER THAT!

An important nerve of yours is probably already cut.



TWO POLAR OPPOSITE PERSONALITIES SEEM TO CARRY SOME BENEFITS.
YES.

THOSE TWO...
ARE GETTING ALONG UN-EXPECTEDLY WELL.

HAVING SAID THAT..

ALTHOUGH I CARE ABOUT THEM,
YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE HANEMURA AREN'T SUITED TO BE THE "MAGICIANS OF ZETSUEN"...
HEY YOU...
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SAVE THE WORLD?
If I save the world,
Perhaps Yu-can will change her mind
Uh..
That..
PEOPLE WITH YOUR TYPE OF PERSONALITY,
NORMALLY DON'T SET SUCH CRAZY GOALS.
UGH..
SO IT'S FOR THE GIRL WHO DUMPED YOU?
WHAT AN IMPURE MOTIVE.

He actually said something like that!
Hey, Hey!

The forbidden words...!

That's something no one has ever said before

I don't want to hear that coming from a guy like you, who has a sister complex!

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SISTER COMPLEX, THEN WHAT IS IT?
THEN WHO WAS IT THAT WANTED REVENGE FOR HIS SISTER?

ARGH!
WHO HAS A SISTER COMPLEX? WHO HUH? WHO?!

THERE ARE TOO MANY ANOMALIES ABOUT HER DEATH.
I'M JUST GETTING REVENGE FOR AIKA.

Of course it's not a sister complex.

BUT AIKA WASN'T EVEN 15.
SHE COULDN'T BE KILLED JUST LIKE THAT.
WHY HAVEN'T YOU EVER MENTIONED THEM?
BOTH YOUR PARENTS WERE ALSO MURDERED.
THEY LIVED LONG ENOUGH ANYWAY.
NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT PARENTS.
ISN'T IT?
LETTING THE CULPRIT LIVE LIKE THIS IS JUST BEYOND REASON,
HE SAID SOMETHING I WANTED TO SAY A LONG TIME AGO
THIS REALLY BRINGS MY SPIRIT UP.
YOUNGSTERS THESE DAYS ARE SO STRAIGHT-FORWARD.
4
.....
HEY,
HAS ANYONE EVER CALLED YOU A SOPHIST?

AIKA AND I ARE NOT BLOOD RELATED.
SHE IS MY SISTER ONLY ON PAPER. IN REALITY, THERE IS NOTHING.
LISTEN UP!
I DO NOT HAVE A SISTER COMPLEX.
YOUR FEELINGS HAVE ALREADY SURPASSED A SISTER COMPLEX?
SO...
WHAT ABOUT IT?
HUH?
THAT'S WHY I DEFINITELY DO NOT HAVE A SISTER COMPLEX.
Love Aika-san.
I think that you simply,

You just said that you definitely have a sister complex.
DON'T BE SILLY.
WHAT KIND OF BROTHER LOVES HIS OWN SISTER?
DON'T FORGET.
I STILL CONSIDER YOU A SUSPECT IN AIKA'S MURDER.
BREAK'S OVER.
コッ
ｶｯ
What a complicated person...
He's also sometimes a bit unreasonable and contradictory...
Even though he has such a violent temperament, he's still gentle...

Even though I'm suspected of murdering his sister,
The strange thing is,
I think he's currently the only trustworthy person here.

...AND?

IMPOS-SIBLE.
HE PROBABLY IS UNWILLING. THAT'S WHY HE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING UNTIL NOW.

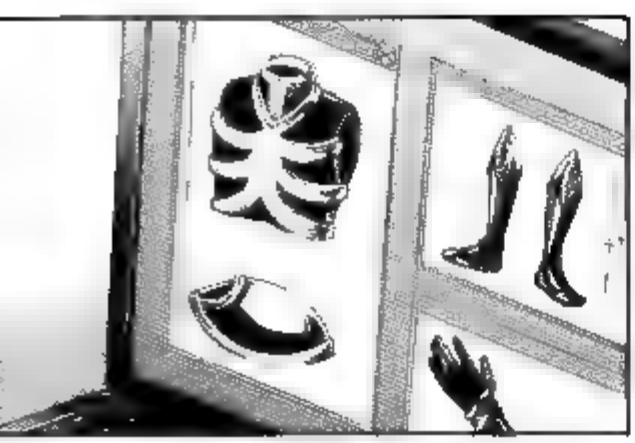
THAT PLAN FROM BEFORE,
HAS HANEMURA-DONO AGREED TO IT YET?

THOUGH IT DOES SEEM RATHER UN-FORTUNATE TO SAY SO...

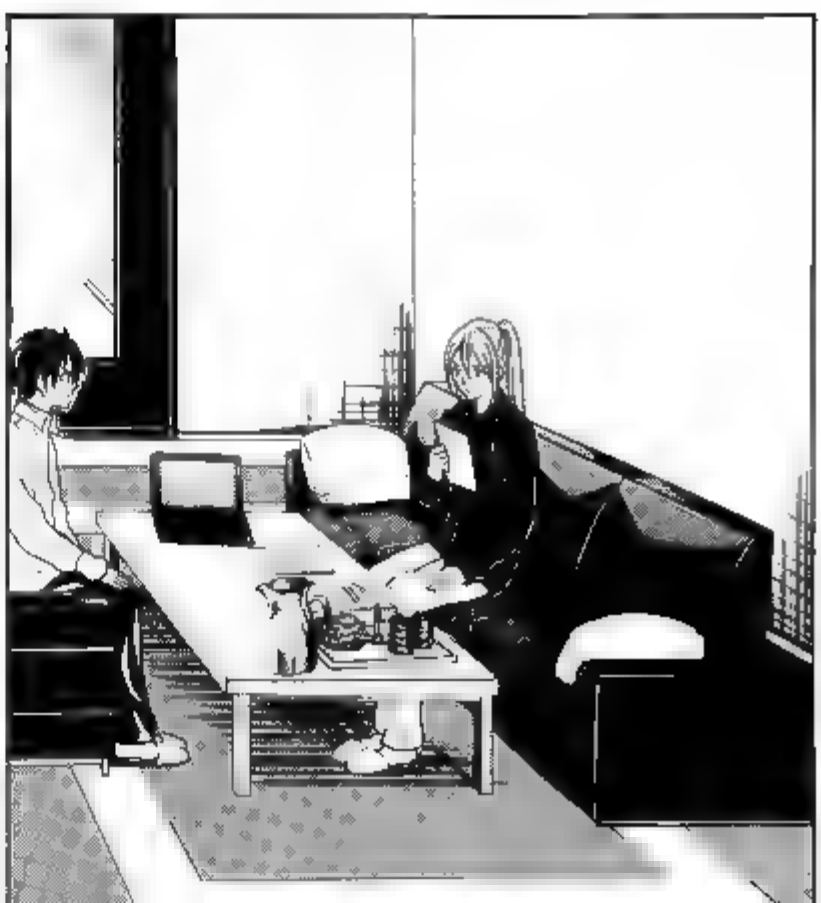
ANYWAY, AS LONG AS WE CAN CONTROL THE SITUATION,
HE CAN'T REFUSE EVEN IF HE WANTS TO.

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S ACTUALLY YOUR MASTER THAT HAS AN ORDEAL AHEAD OF HER.
ALTHOUGH SHE'S CONSIDERED RELIABLE AND ONE OF THE KEY FACTORS IN THE PLAN, WE DON' EVEN KNOW IF SHE CAN KEEP IT'S PRIORITY IN MIND.
SAMON-DONO LIKES TO MAKE SURE EVERY-THING GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN.

BUT EVEN HE SOMETIMES BECOMES DESPERATE TOO.



THE DESIGN IS FINISHED.
IT'S ALREADY IN PRODU-CTION.



.....
WAS ALL OF THE MEASURING FROM BEFORE FOR THIS?

WE'VE DIVIDED THE LABOR AND MINIMIZED THE USE OF MANPOWER.
WE'VE BEEN WORKING EXTREMELY CAUTIOUSLY TO PREVENT INFORMATION FROM LEAKING OUT.

YOU REALLY DO HAVE A HIGH PROBABILITY OF REGAINING AUTHORITY.
ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME PROBLEMS, AFTER TAKING THE CONSEQUENCES INTO ACCOUNT, THIS IS FOR THE BEST.

ス・・

NO.
THE SHEER NUMBER OF "INTUITIONS" PRESENTED TO US WILL INCREASE MANIFOLD.

YEAH...
BESIDES, ONCE THIS PLAN IS EXECUTED, THE VARIOUS INFORMATION...

IN REALITY,
WE DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND MUCH ABOUT THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" AND THE "TREE OF ZETSUEN".
I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT.
.....
EVEN YOU OF THE KUSARIBE CLAN,
DO NOT KNOW ANY ABSOLUTE FACTS ABOUT THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS".
WHEN THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" FIRST APPEARED...
THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAN WAS TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN ANEW ON A CLEAN SLATE AND GAIN MORE UNDERSTANDING.
IN WHAT WAY ARE THOSE TWO TREES SACRED?
IS IT THE WAY THEY GOVERN REASON?

I DO NOT THINK WE CAN MOVE FORWARD,
WITHOUT DOING THAT FIRST.
DON'T WORRY.
I HAVE NO INTENTIONS OF OPPOSING THIS PLAN.
REGARDING THE KUSARIBE CLAN MAGIC AND THE "TREE",
THEY'RE ALL CLOSELY RELATED.
SO IN THE MEANTIME, IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS,
YOUR PLAN S QUITE INTERESTING.
ALSO,
I WILL LEND YOU A HAND IN COMPLETING THE PLAN.

OF COURSE.
WE CAN'T BE WITHOUT THE KUSARIBE CLAN'S SUPPORT EITHER.
WHILE EXECUTING THE PLAN, I WILL NOT PERMIT ANY ACTIONS BASED ON PERSONAL JUDGMENT.
BUT AFTER-WARDS,
?
ACCORDING TO MAHIRO,
WE MUST ALSO HAVE THE APPROV-AL OF THE PRINCESS AND TAKIGA-WA YOSHINO.
MOVING ON...
BUT IF THE PRINCESS AGREES,
HE PROBABLY WON'T HAVE ANY OBJEC-TIONS.
IF CONDITIONS WORSEN.
TAKIGAWA YOSHINO MIGHT ONLY WORK HARDER,

AS I THOUGHT, WE HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL HANEMURA APPEARS IN PERSON.
THE FACT THAT TAKIGAWA YOSHINO MIGHT BE THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN" HAS NOT BEEN RULED OUT YET.
ポン/ポン
EVEN IF THAT YOUNGSTER IS RELATED TO THE "TREE OF ZETSUEN,"
HE WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING OUTSIDE HISNORMAL ACTIONS.

I GUESS THAT COULD BE POSSIBLE, BUT...
TWO PEOPLE MAKING ONE ENTITY...

SHOULDN'T THERE BE SOMEONE TO COMPLEMENT HIM?

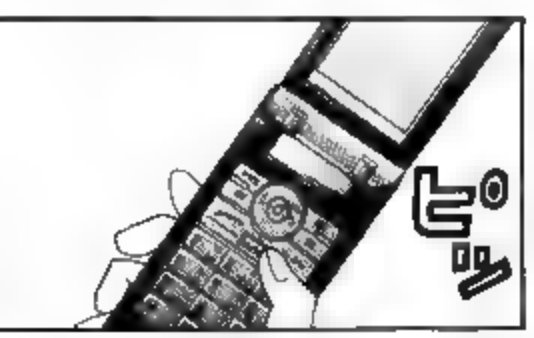
WE CANNOT SAY THAT HANEMURA IS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS THE "MAGIC OF ZETSUEN".
サラ
サラ

I'LL GO AND CONVINCE HER.

LET'S PUT THAT ASIDE FOR A MOMENT.
WILL THE PRINCESS EVEN AGREE?

COMPLETING THIS PLAN,
WILL REQUIRE A CONSIDERABLE TIME...

Do whatever you like.
Yoshino also said it's up to me.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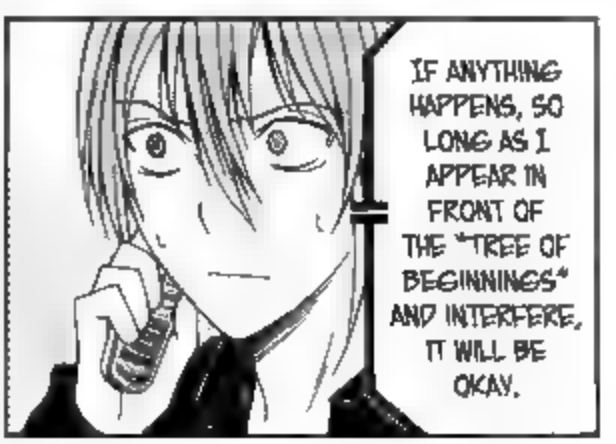
What do you want to say?
If that's all. I'm hanging up.


IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, SO LONG AS I APPEAR IN FRONT OF THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" AND INTERFERE, IT WILL BE OKAY.

.....

THEN IF YOU DON'T OBJECT TO THIS PLAN...
YOU TALK TOO MUCH.

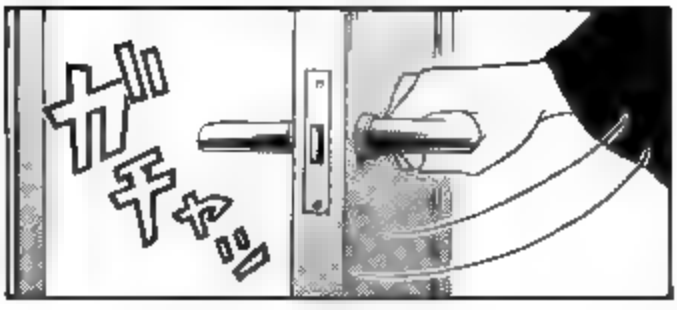
HM...
SHE SAID TO DO WHAT EVER YOU LIKE.
カラオケ♪
SEEMS LIKE SHE AGREED PRETTY READILY.

IF THAT'S THE FACT THEN THIS IS JUST AS NERVEWRECK-ING IN IT'S OWN WAY.
SHE MOST LIKELY DOESN'T CARE ABOUT US ONE BIT RIGHT NOW.
SHE'S JUST PROBABLY FRETTING ABOUT LOVE.
THIS IS A BIT UNSET-TLING.
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S GIVING US FREE REIGN ALL OF A SUDDEN.

This isn't the time to think about such things!
Ah... Really now!

Does he like or hate her?!
Argh... can't tell at all!

The more I hear about her, the more I think Yoshino's girlfriend is a complete vixen!
But Yoshino has been completely bewitched by her!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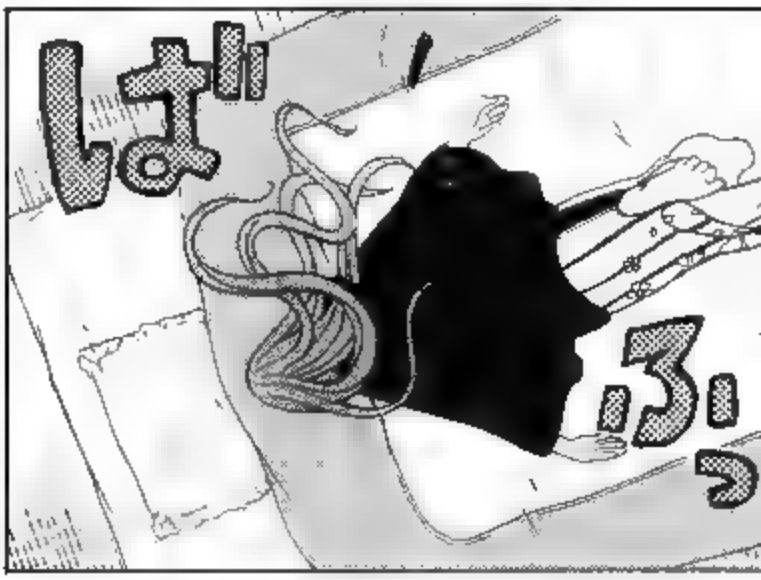
HAKAZE SAN.

It was about the plan detailed in the mail.
He only called to ask for permission to execute it

YOUR PHONE CALL,
ARE YOU DONE TALKING ALREADY?

I can't think straight when I see Yoshino's face!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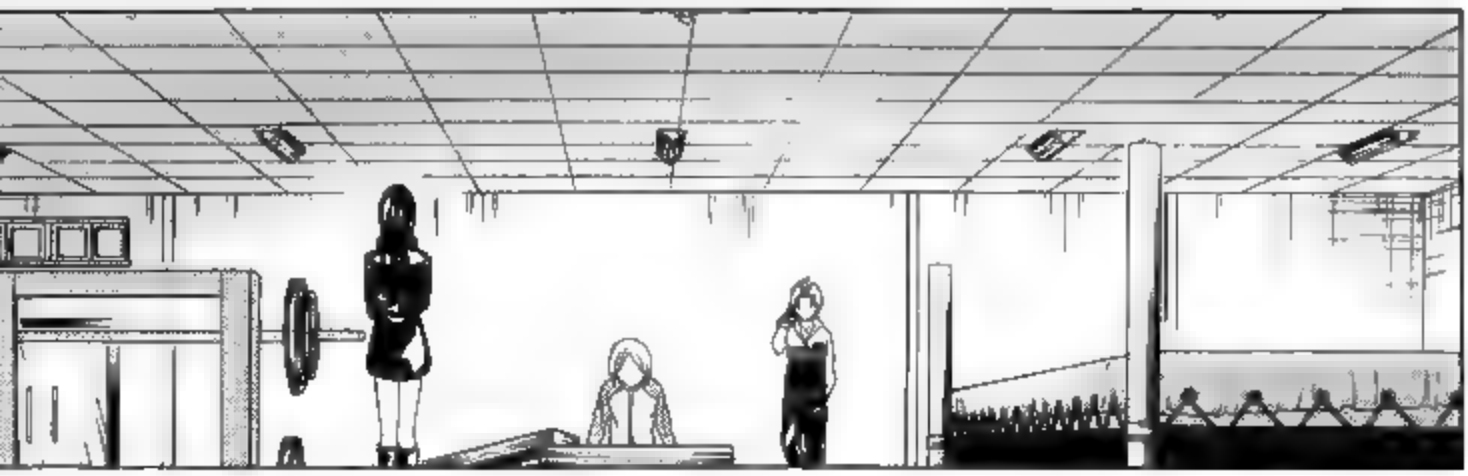
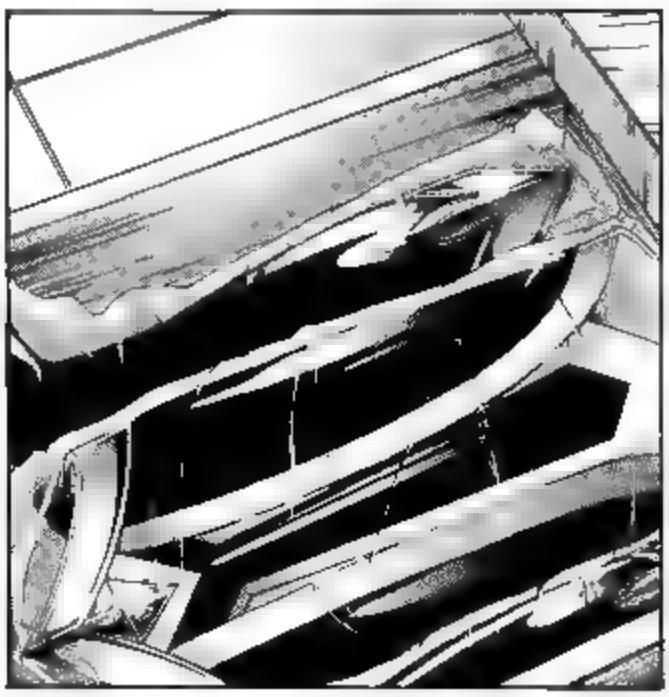
Uuuuu... How embarrassing!

THERE ARE MANY THINGS WE NEED TO PREPARE TO EXECUTE THE PLAN
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THE PRINCESS LATER.





I'M INCAPABLE OF DOING THINGS LIKE THAT ANYWAY!
THI... THINGS LIKE THIS... I'LL NEVER WEAR THESE!

WHAT?!

IT'S ALREADY BEEN SPREAD ON MOBILE WEBSITES AND INTERNET FORUMS.
スッ
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN DO IT THE PREVIEW HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.

# Zetsuen no Tempest

Magician Informational Announcement

On 21 st of January, 9pm The event "Cut the tree of the beginnings" will take place Everyone s invited for this occasion, so we kindly ask you not to miss this chance and watch the event

NOT cancelled in case of rain

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# ZETSUEN NO TEMPEST

by SHIRODAIRA Kyou and SAIZAKI Ren

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## ZetSuen no Tempest ch 22

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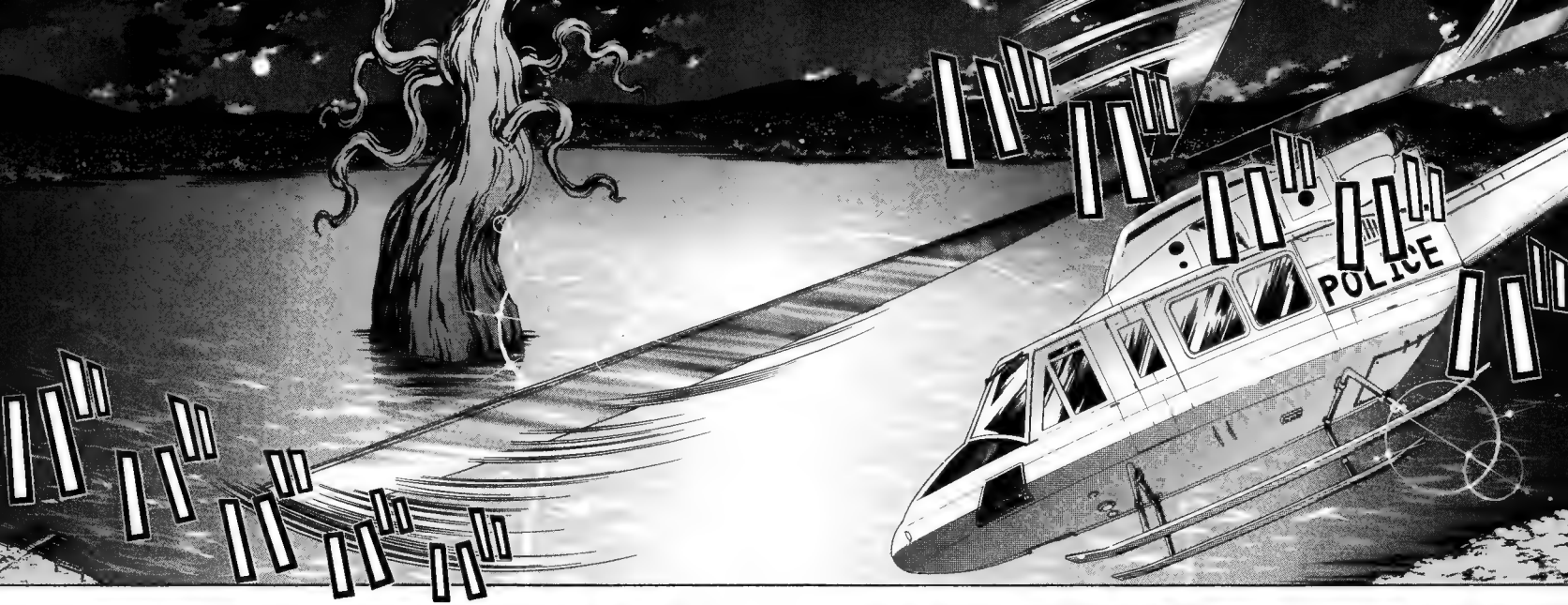
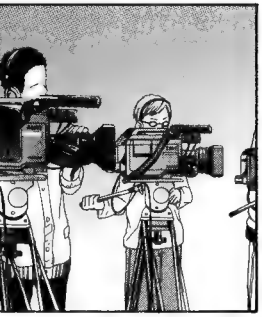
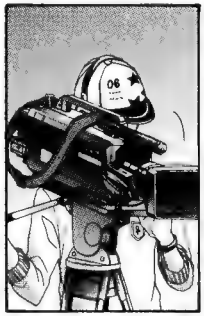
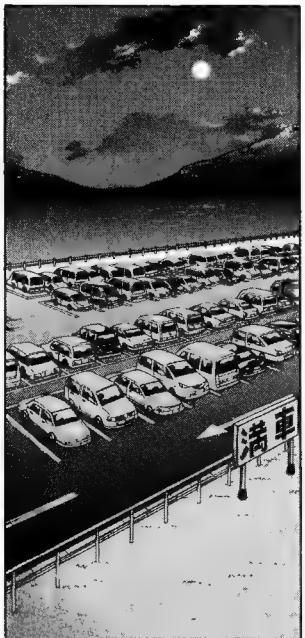
# Chapter 23: The True Magician


POLICE



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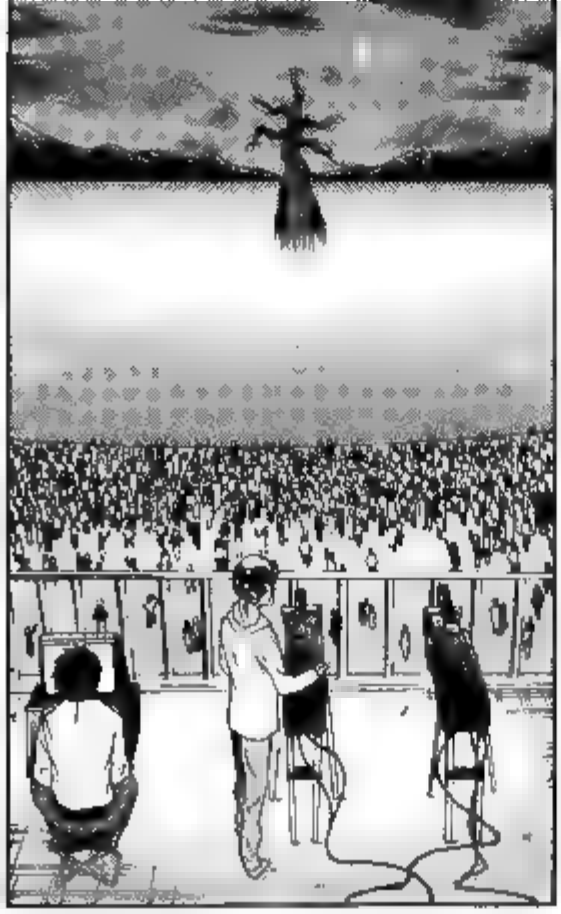
OVER THERE IS THE "TREE" THAT THE ONE CALLING HIMSELF THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN" SAYS HE WILL DESTROY AS STATED IN THE PREVIEW ANNOUNCE-MENT.

THERE HAVE YET TO BE ANY NOTICEABLE CHANGES IN THE ENVI-RONMENT.
ALTHOUGH THE SAID TIME IS FAST APPROACH-ING,

MOVE BACK!
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE!

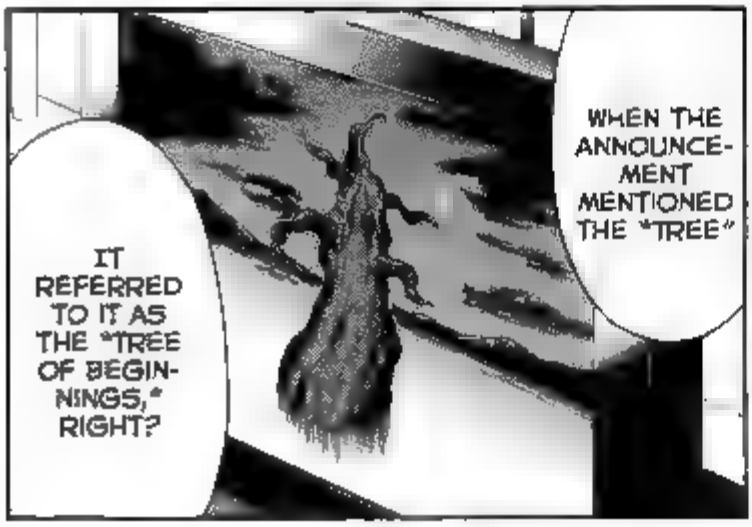
BUT DOES REALLY SOMETHING THAT CAN DESTROY THAT "TREE" EXIST?
THEY SAID SO ON THE NEWS.
AS I THOUGHT, JUST ANOTHER PRANK
A notice from the Magician of Zetsuen
THAT'S WHY I SAID IT WAS A PRANK.

SO IT WAS A PRANK.
WHAT A LETDOWN.



EVEN IF IT IS A PRANK, ISN'T THE TIMING TOO CONVENIENT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS?
AH. .

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO OR WHERE IT IS FROM.
BESIDES, THAT ANNOUNCEMENT...


IT REFERRED TO IT AS THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS," RIGHT?
WHEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT MENTIONED THE "TREE"

I DON'T THINK THIS IS A PRANK ..

!!

EVEN WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, THERE ARE ONLY A FEW TOP OFFICIALS WHO KNOW THE "TREE'S" OFFICIAL NAME.
THAT NAME...

ガチャッ
WHETHER IT'S BY LAKE OR BY AIR, WE STILL CAN'T SEE ANYONE APPROACHING THE "TREE".
KEEP PATROLLING.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT AS CHAOTIC AS WE PREDICTED,
I WONDER... WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE END?
THERE'S STILL ABOUT 30 SECONDS LEFT,
UNTIL THE PROMISED TIME.
PM 20:59:30
WHAT TIME IS IT?
YEAH, I GUESS. .
THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANYONE WITHIN THE VICINITY...
IT'S PROBABLY A PRANK, RIGHT?
!?

HEY!
THAT'S ?!

WH... WHAT IS...
THAT?!
THOSE TWO ARE THE "MAGI-CIANS OF ZETSUEN," AREN'T THEY?!
THEY'RE EVEN DRESSED LIKE MAGI-CIANS?!

START FILMING NOW!

DON'T MISS A SINGLE SECOND!

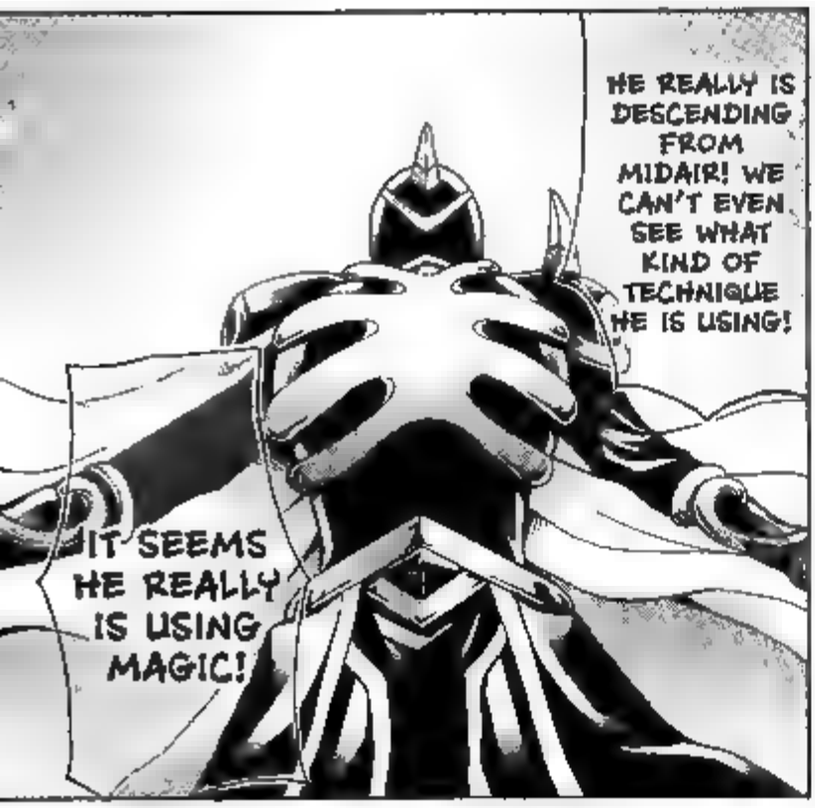
IS THIS MAGIC?

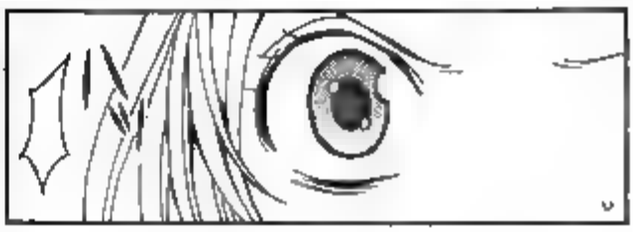
WOW, THEY'RE STANDING ON THE SURFACE!

ス…

THIS FOOTAGE DOES NOT HAVE ANY ADDED SPECIAL EFFECTS!
IT IS RAW FOOTAGE!
THE "TREE"
IS BEING ILLUMI-NATED THOSE TWO WHO MIGHT BE THE MAGI-CIANS IN QUESTION!
QUICK! LOOK AT THAT!
THAT'S DEFINITELY...
THAT...

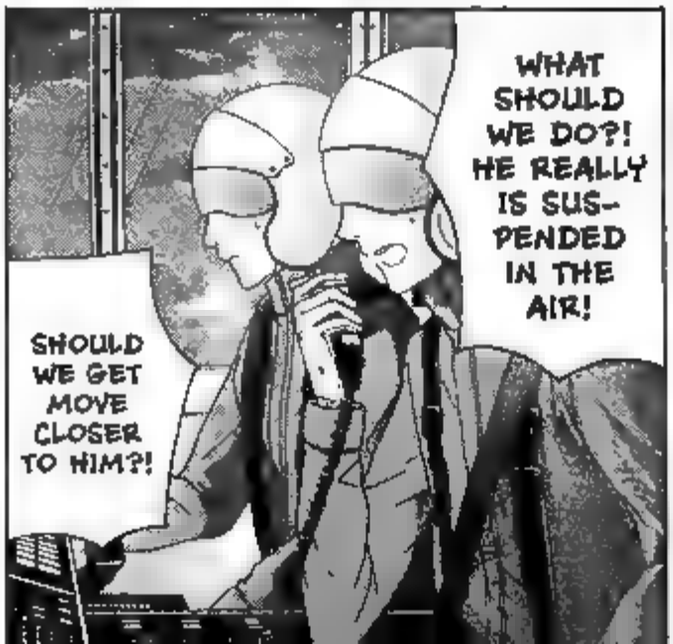
THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN"...!


HE REALLY IS DESCENDING FROM MIDAIR! WE CAN'T EVEN SEE WHAT KIND OF TECHNIQUE HE IS USING!
IT SEEMS HE REALLY IS USING MAGIC!



A NEW FIGURE WHO MIGHT ALSO BE THE MAGICIAN HAS APPEARED!
HE IS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE "TREE"!

NO!
THAT'S ENOUGH! DON'T GET ANY CLOSER!


WHAT SHOULD WE DO?! HE REALLY IS SUSPENDED IN THE AIR!
SHOULD WE GET MOVE CLOSER TO HIM?!

IT'S LIKE...
HE'S FLOATING DOWN FROM MIDAIR...

WHAT WAS THAT?!
AN INVISIBLE BARRIER-LIKE THING HAS APPEARED AROUND THE TREE!

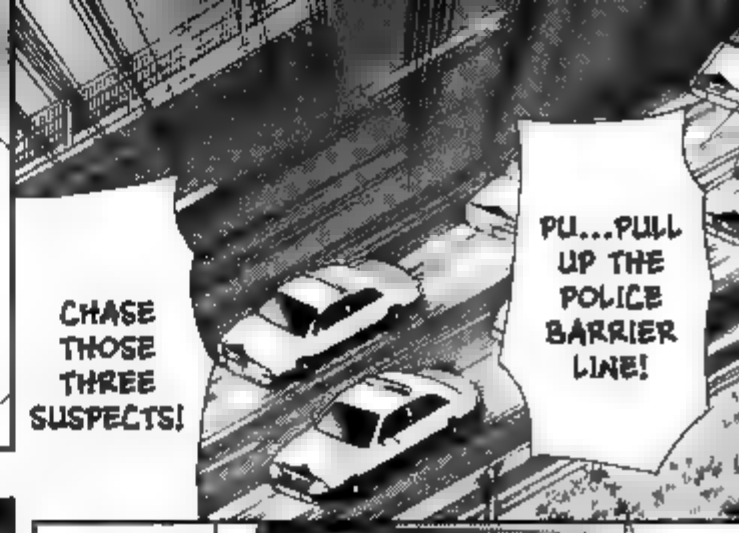
Sever.

THIS IS...

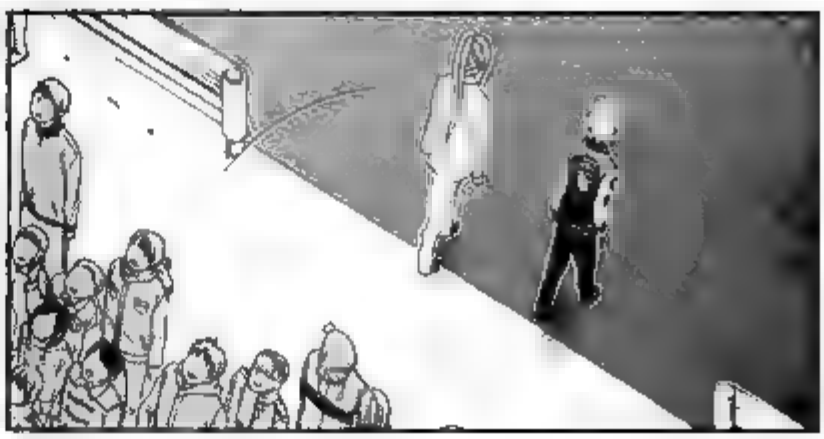
WHAT KIND OF MIRACLE IS THIS...?

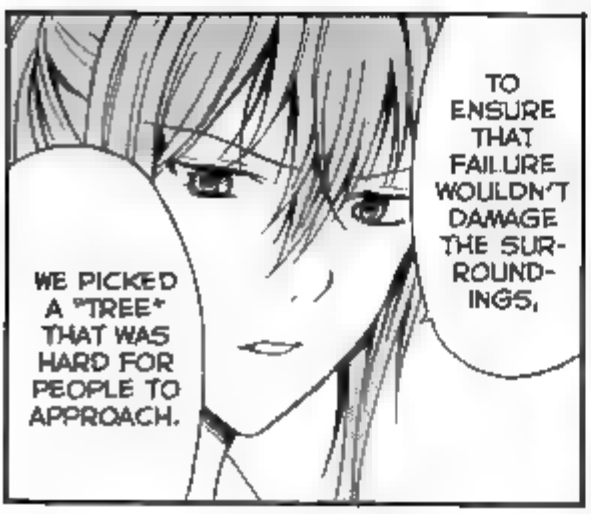
THIS... THIS IS REAL!
IT REALLY IS MAGIC!
JUST LIKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID,
THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN" HAS APPEARED!
THE "TREE" THAT EVEN MISSILES COULDN'T SCRATCH,
HAS BEEN COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY DESTROYED!

THIS GUY...
IS ABOUT TO STIR UP A HUGE RIOT...


PU...PULL UP THE POLICE BARRIER LINE!
CHASE THOSE THREE SUSPECTS!

REQUEST THE PREFECTURAL POLICE FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE!




TO ENSURE THAT FAILURE WOULDN'T DAMAGE THE SURROUNDINGS,
WE PICKED A "TREE" THAT WAS HARD FOR PEOPLE TO APPROACH.

THAT SCAREDY-CAT WASN'T TOO BAD HUH?

IT WOULD BE PRETTY BAD IF HE WERE TO GET STAGE FRIGHT UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS IN THE FUTURE.

HANEMURA, THAT GUY. .
DOES HE EVEN HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW?

IN THE FUTURE...
TCH!

ふぁっ

GOOD WORK!
SEEMS LIKE IT WAS A SUCCESS!

HA... HA... HA... MY HEART CAN'T SEEM TO STOP RACING.
IT FEELS LIKE IT WILL FLY OUT OF MY MOUTH AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

WAS IT REALLY OKAY TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT..?
WITH ALL THOSE CAMERAS WERE THERE ..

FROM NOW ON THINGS WILL GET INTERESTING...

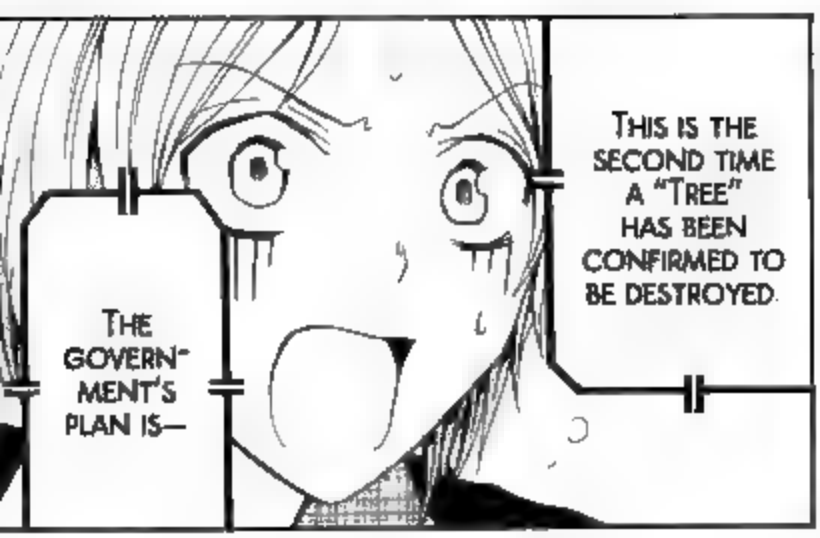
I...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

THERE'S A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF DISTANCE BETWEEN THE BANKS AND THE "TREE". BESIDES, YOU WERE WEARING SUCH EXTRAVAGANT CLOTHING.
EVEN YOUR GIRLFRIEND WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU.

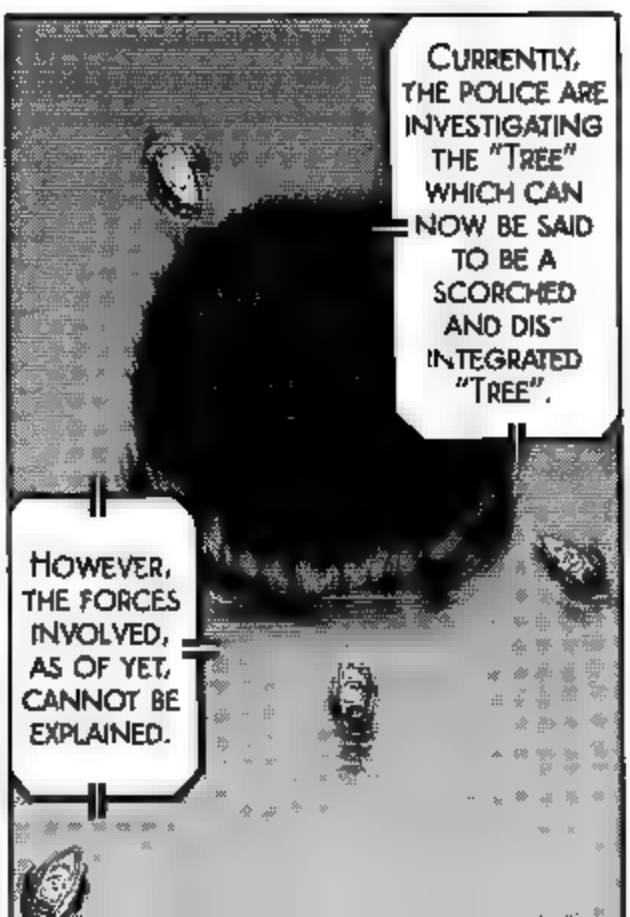
Interesting?
I wonder what the news will say about this tomorrow....

THIS IS THE SITE WHERE THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN" APPEARED LAST NIGHT
EVEN FOREIGN MEDIA HAVE COME TO GET A SCOOP...
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE MEDIA IS PACKED HERE LIKE A BEEHIVE.


AFTER DESTROYING THE "TREE," QUICKLY DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE.
..ON THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN" AND THE TWO POSSIBLE FOLLOWERS WHO,


THE GOVERN- MENT'S PLAN IS—
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME A "TREE" HAS BEEN CONFIRMED TO BE DESTROYED.

WH...


CURRENTLY, THE POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE "TREE" WHICH CAN NOW BE SAID TO BE A SCORCHED AND DIS- INTEGRATED "TREE".
HOWEVER, THE FORCES INVOLVED, AS OF YET, CANNOT BE EXPLAINED.

WHICH-EVER CHANNEL YOU WATCH THEY ARE BROAD-CASTING YESTER-DAY'S INCIDENT!
IT'S ON THE HEADLINES EVERY-WHERE!
LOOK.
EVEN YOUR HEROIC POSE HAS BEEN CAPTURED.
IT'S NOT JUST ON TELEVISION EITHER. THE TOP 5 NEWS-PAPERS,
AND EVEN THE SPORTS SECTIONS' HEADLINES ARE ABOUT THE "MAG.-CIAN OF ZETSUEN".
GET BACK TOGETHER ?!!
WHO COULD TELL THAT I'M BEHIND THIS PICTURE?
THE WHOLE WORLD HAS THEIR EYES ON YOU.
EVEN YOUR EX-GIRLFRIEND WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO GET BACK TOGETHER WITH YOU NOW, HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN SAYING! NEXT TIME? WHAT NEXT TIME?!
DIDN'T YOU SAY ONCE WAS ENOUGH?!
JUST DON'T WEAR THE HELMET, OKAY?
THEN HOW ABOUT NEXT TIME LET PEOPLE SEE YOU A BIT CLEARER?
LET MY FACE BE REVEALED?! ABSOLUTELY NOT!
WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE LATEST UPDATE!
THERE HAVE BEEN CONFIRMATIONS OF ANOTHER ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN" ON THE INTERNET!
POINT
THE LOCATION IS...
THE NEXT APPEARANCE IS IN THREE DAYS, AT 8:00 ON THE NIGHT OF THE 25TH!

I WAS...
...JUST ABOUT TO TELL YOU.

カチャ

THR... THREE DAYS!
HOW COME I HAVEN'T HEARD OF THIS YET?!

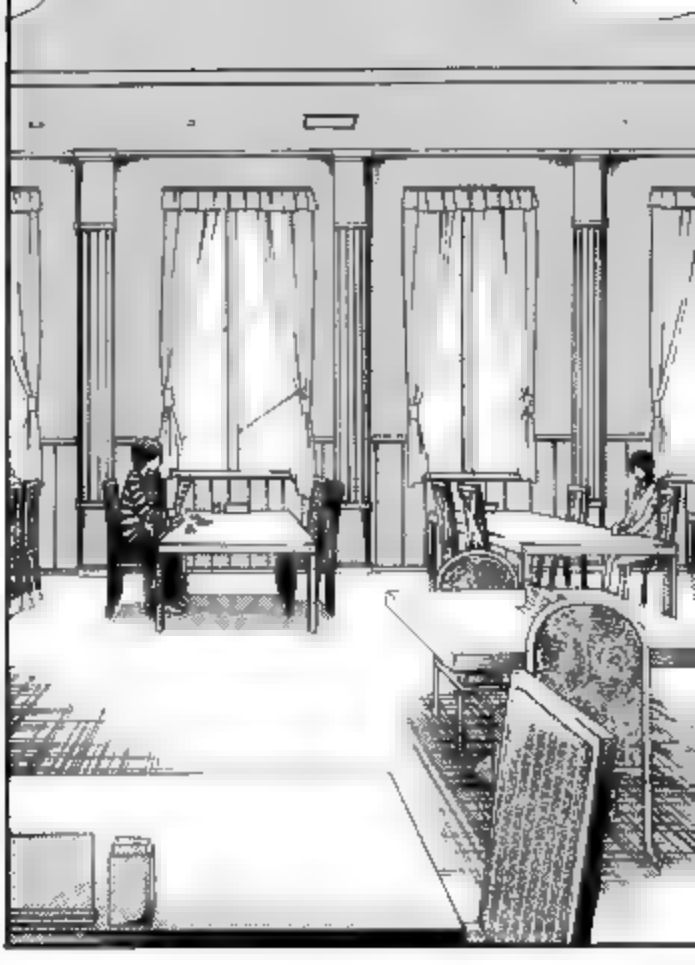
OV- OV- OV...
OVER- SEAS?!

WITHIN THE COUNTRY THERE ARE STILL TWO PLACES LEFT.
AFTER THAT WE NEED TO GO OVERSEAS AND ARRANGE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE "TREES" THERE AS WELL.

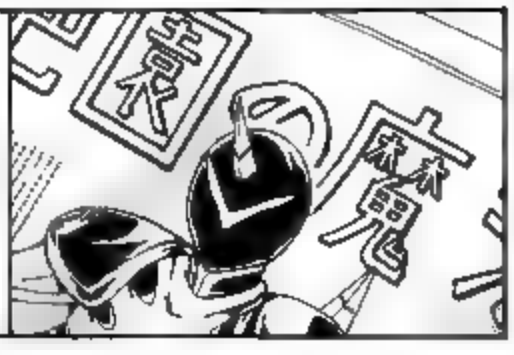
THAT'S ...
IMPOS- SIBLE...

DON'T YOU HAVE YOUR PASSPORT?
THERE ARE AT LEAST TEN PLACES YOU NEED TO GO.

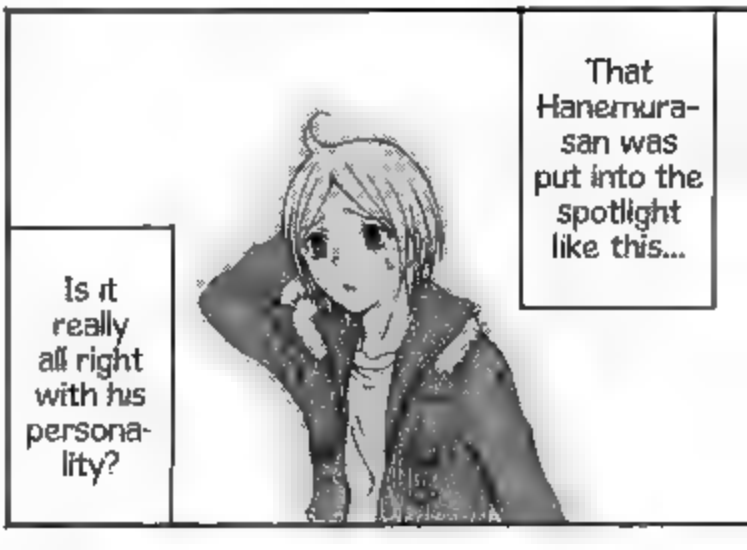
IN THEORY, YES.
THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO IMPACT ON THE GREAT TREE
DES-TROYING PARTS OF THE "TREE OF BEGIN-N.NGS", DO?
WHAT GOOD WOULD WANDERING AROUND THE WORLD,
NO MATTER HOW MANY "TREES" YOU DESTROY, THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" ISN'T AFFECTED, RIGHT?
HOWEVER,
THIS RESULTS CAN SURFACE IN OTHER PLACES.
PERHAPS THERE WILL BE NEW CHANGES WHEN THE WORLD KNOWS OF YOUR POWERS.
WE MAY ALSO GAIN SOME INS GHT REGARDING OTHER THINGS AS WELL.



As I thought, this has spun out of control.

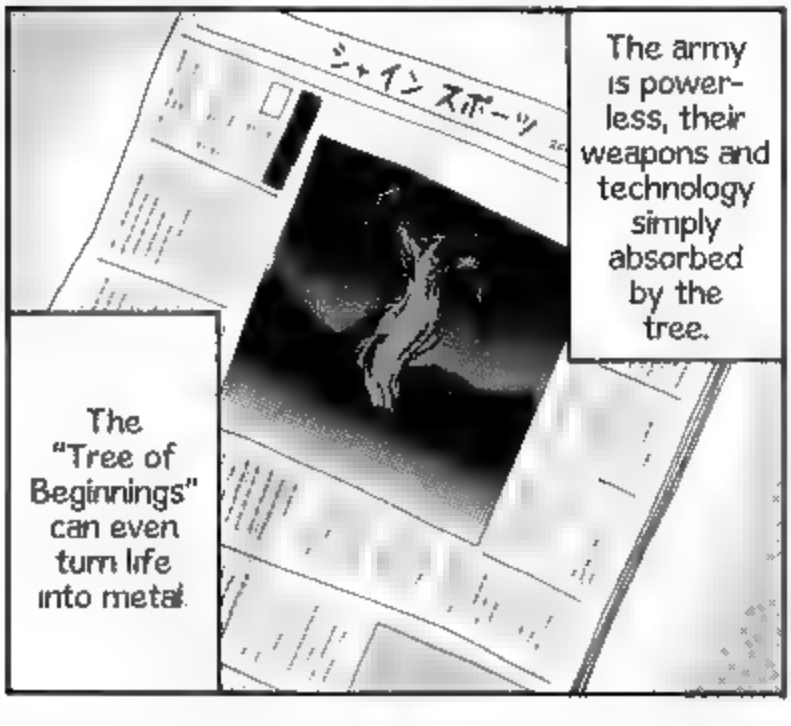


But...



That Hanemura-san was put into the spotlight like this...

Is it really all right with his personality?




The army is powerless, their weapons and technology simply absorbed by the tree.

The "Tree of Beginnings" can even turn life into metal.

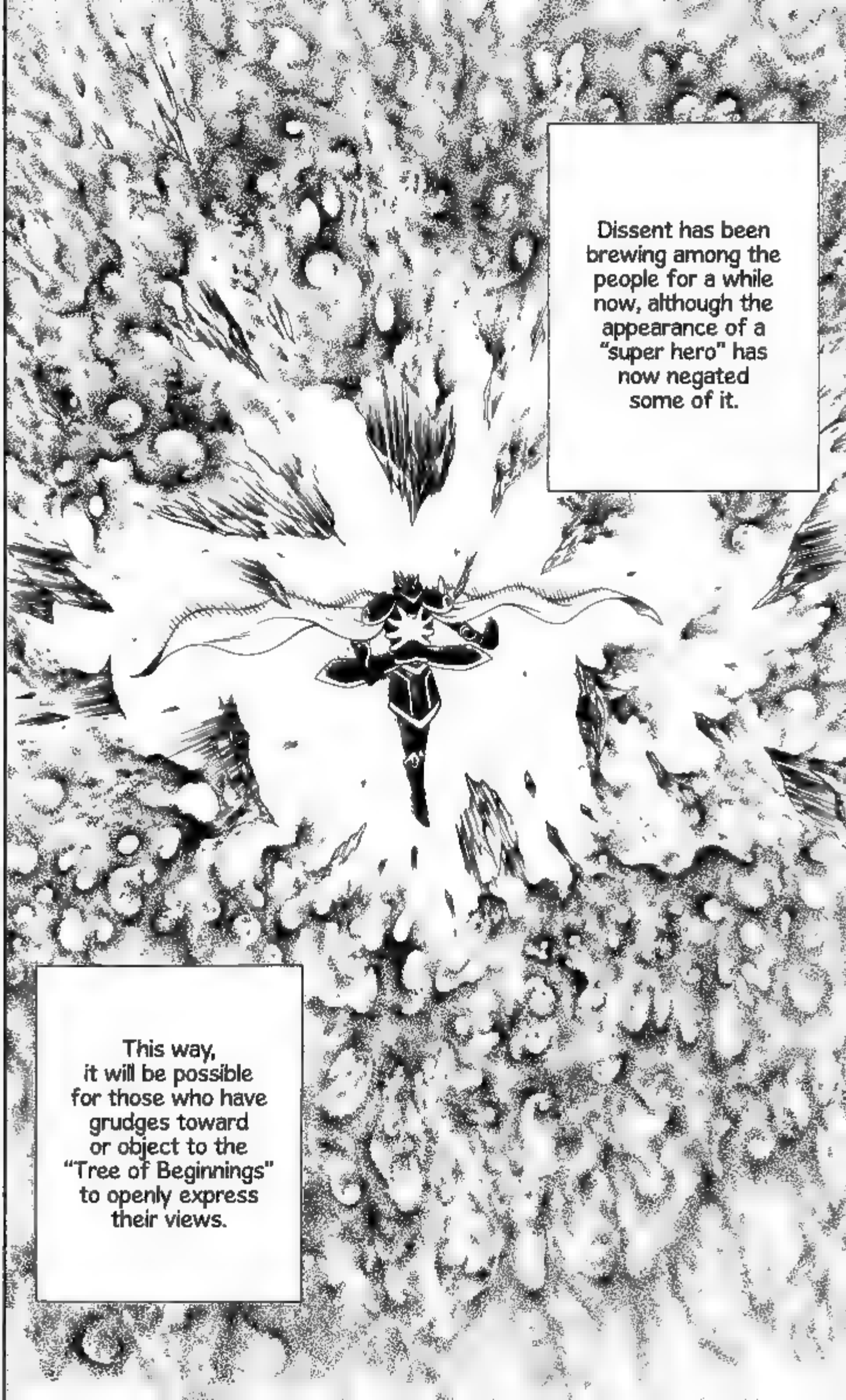
What kinds of changes in the world will come of this?

Will things progress like Samon-san and the others planned?

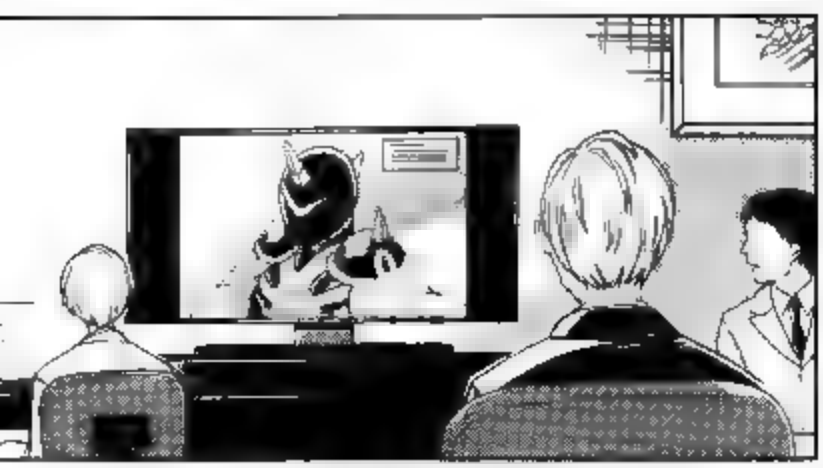
If it's like that, even if we want to fight it, we don't have any means to.

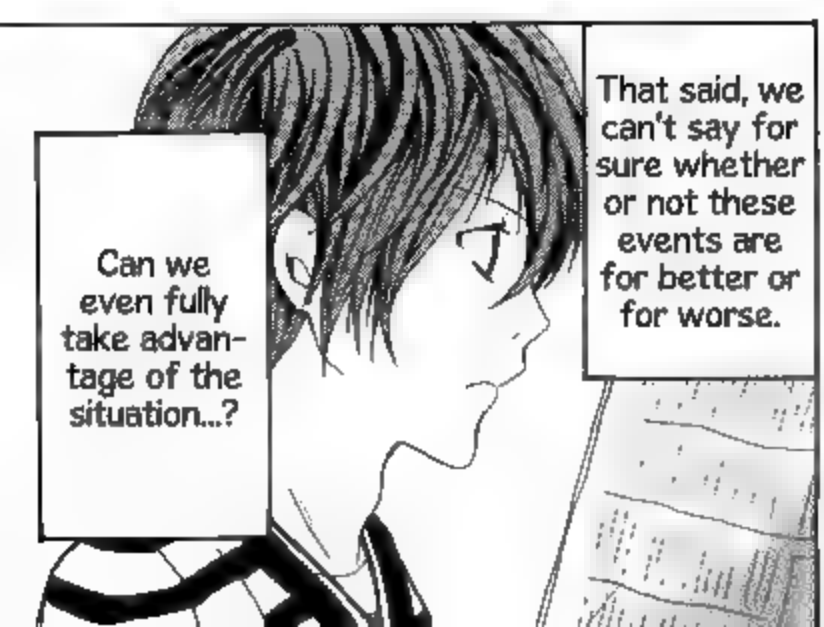
So no matter how terrified everyone is...
They have all accepted this world that includes the "Tree of Beginnings".

THE MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN
This is something that can spark a revolution.
The appearance of a person who can destroy these "Trees"...
But...


Dissent has been brewing among the people for a while now, although the appearance of a "super hero" has now negated some of it.
This way, it will be possible for those who have grudges toward or object to the "Tree of Beginnings" to openly express their views.

Demon-
strations
by various
groups
opposing the
"Tree" could
also arise.




That said, we
can't say for
sure whether
or not these
events are
for better or
for worse.
Can we
even fully
take advan-
tage of the
situation...?

I'M LATE.
SORRY.

Black tea, please.

IF THEY'RE JUST MAKING A FUSS OVER TH.NGS, LET THEM.
AT ANY RATE, ONE TIME WON'T MAKE TOO MUCH OF A RUCKUS.

LOOK,
YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT HAS BECOME HUGE.

SAMON'S AND THE OTHERS' PLAN HAVE MY MIND RUNNING .N CIRCLES.

SAYING SUCH GLOOMY THINGS SO EARLY IN THE MORNING ..
DID YOU NOT GET ENOUGH SLEEP?

Yoshino appears even in my dreams!
If this continues, I won't be able to sleep for days!
He's even in my dreams!
If you had a better girlfriend I wouldn't be tormented so!
I would be able to give you up without a second thought!
That idiot!
Still, I can't just let Samon and the others do whatever they want.
Look at me as a woman, already!

Ahh... A princess like me rolling on a bed like this...
And for love, no less!
Yoshino's girlfriend might be killed if I keep at it like this.
This is the biggest issue...
Argh!

What a cruel joke!
All this being tied to the fate of the world...

.....

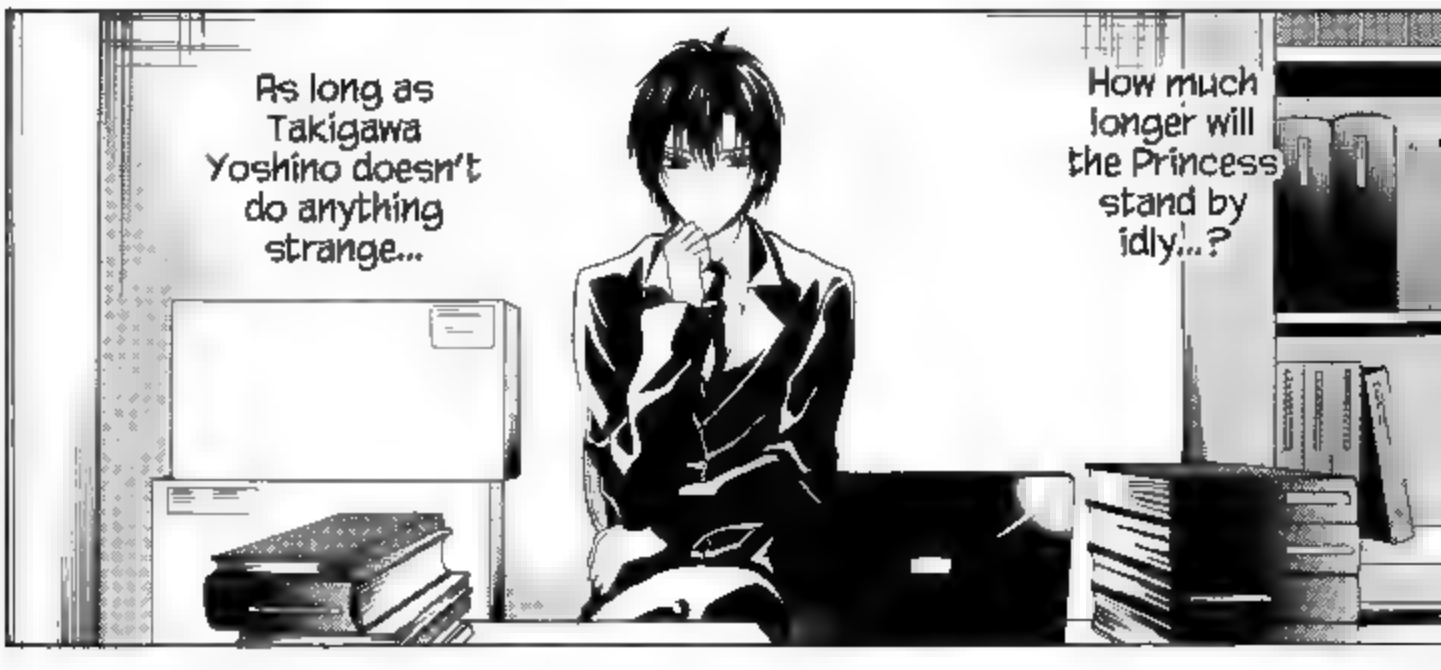
Uh... This...
Should I ask her what's troubling her...?

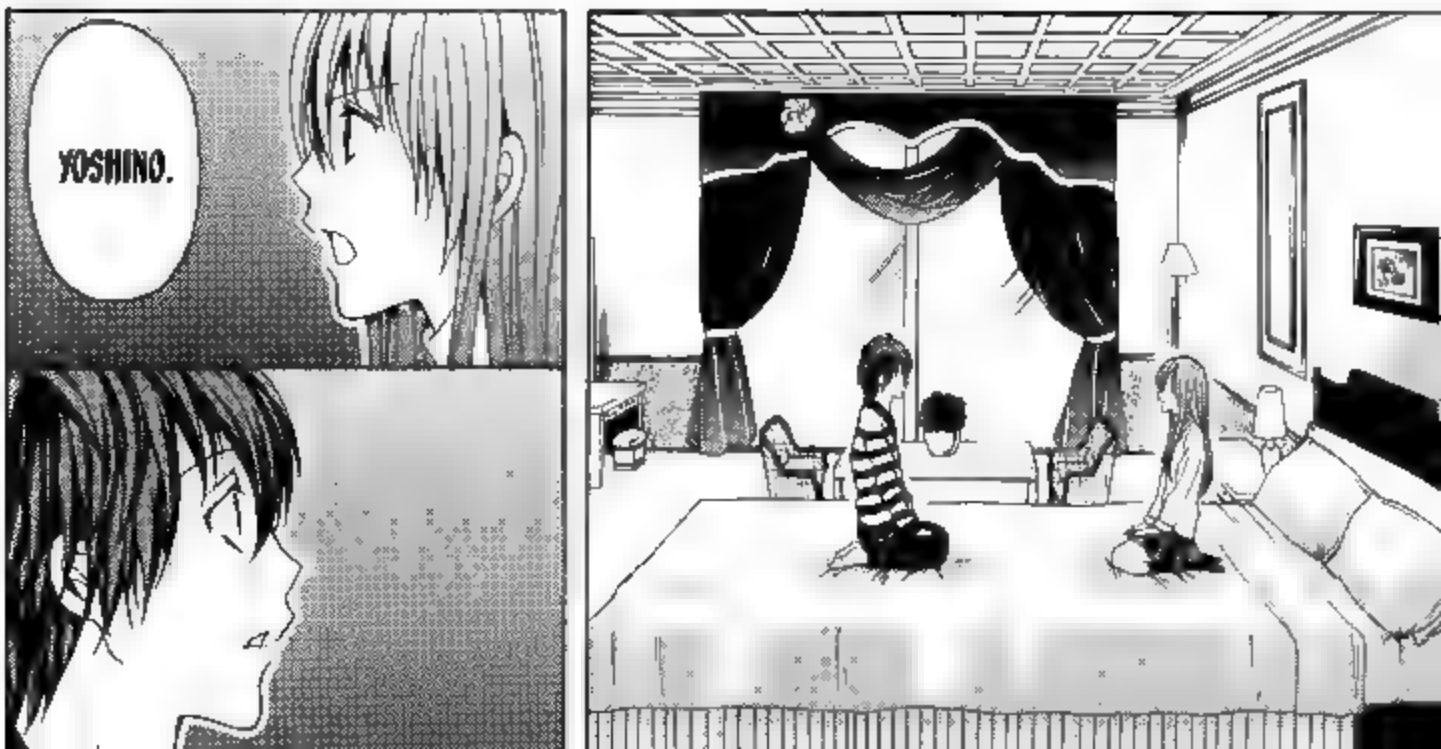
What is this? A love comedy?!
Even the fate of the world has become a love comedy?!

Tch... It can't be helped!
If it's like this, I'll have to use my last resort...!
くいっ
カチャン

I'VE ALREADY FINISHED MY JOB THOUGH...
Statistical Data Division
---IS WHY I REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT LAST NIGHT.
YES.
ALTHOUGH I CAN GUESS SOME THINGS..
LOOK .. I'M NOT EVEN IN THE POSITION TO. INTERFERE AND THERE WILL BE LIABILITY ISSUES IN THE FUTURE.
YES... THANK YOU.
ピッ

The higher-ups sure are impatient.
The time set earlier will probably come sooner than expected.
If so...

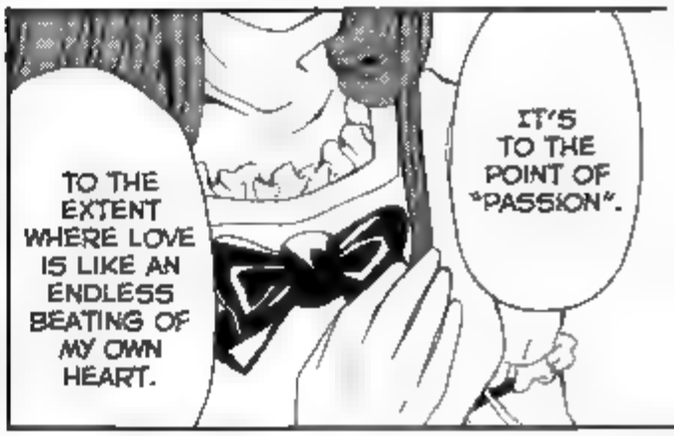

As long as Takigawa Yoshino doesn't do anything strange...
How much longer will the Princess stand by idly...?


YOSHINO.

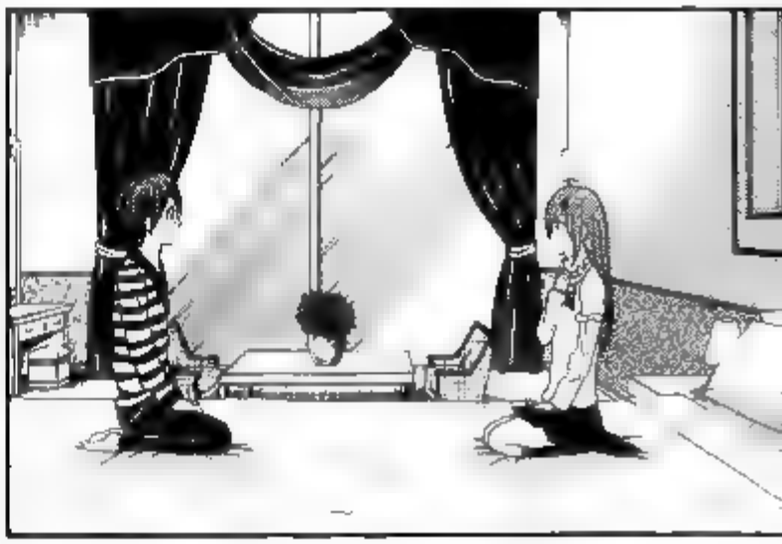
I LIKE YOU.

IN OTHER WORDS,
I LIKE YOU TO THE POINT WHERE I CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND MYSELF.

JUST TO THE POINT OF THINKING YOU'RE KIND OR SMART OR WHATEVER.
THIS ISN'T,


TO THE EXTENT WHERE LOVE IS LIKE AN ENDLESS BEATING OF MY OWN HEART.
IT'S TO THE POINT OF "PASSION".

AH.
THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU.



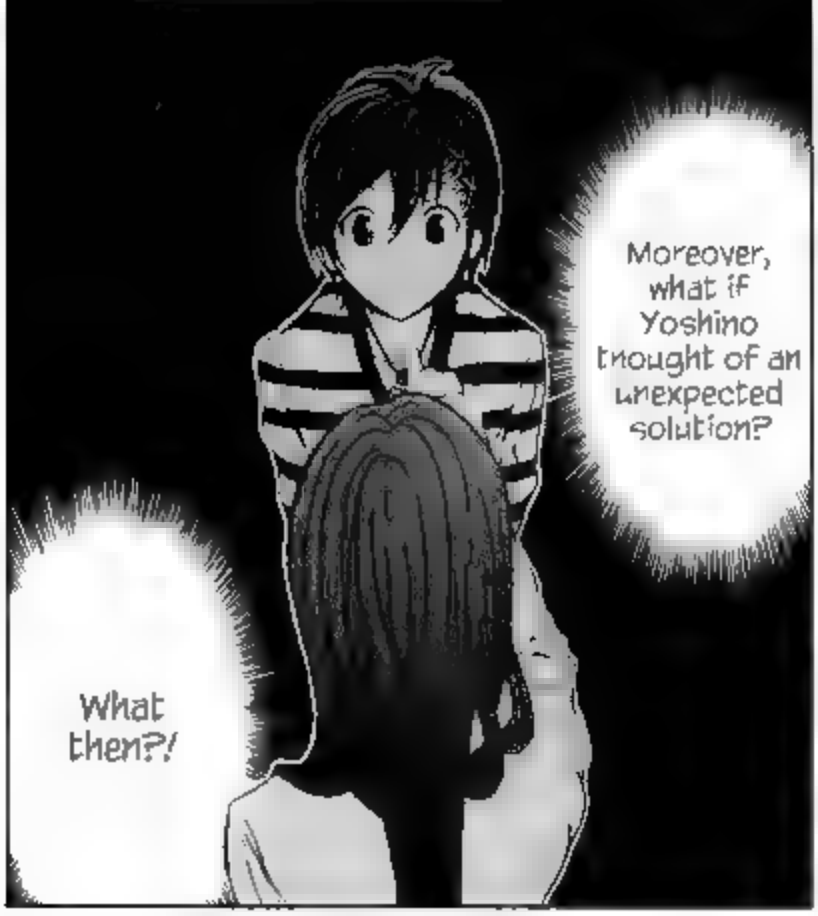
THAT I, THE "PRINCESS OF BEGINNINGS" LIKE YOU?
THAT I WANT YOU TO THE POINT THAT I EVEN SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS?

YOU!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?

AH...
...MY EARLOBE?
THAT I LIKE YOU SO MUCH THAT I WANT TO EMBRACE YOU THIS VERY MOMENT,
AND FONDLE YOUR EARLOBE?
You're such an irritating person!
ARGH!!!
THE FACT THAT YOU ALREADY HAVE A GIRLFRIEND MAKES ME EXTREMELY ANGRY.
SOMETIMES I WISH SHE ISN'T EVEN ON THE PLANET.
I HAVE THE DIVINE PROTECTION OF THE "TREE OF BEGIN-NINGS," YOU KNOW?
I DESIRE YOU TO BE MINE.
IF THAT IS THE CASE..

THE WORST CASE SCENARIO WOULD BE THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" BECOMING AWARE OF THIS.
YOUR GIRL-FRIEND COULD BE ELIMINATED BECAUSE OF ME.
Oh wow.
I haven't thought of that...
...THE "TREE OF THE BEGIN-NINGS"...
COULD HAVE ALSO KILLED MAHIRO'S SISTER.
ALSO, EVEN IF THE "TREE OF BEGIN-NINGS" HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
IF YOUR GIRLFRIEND WERE TO DIE OF UNNATURAL CAUSES AFTER THIS,
I WOULD FEEL. .
THAT EVERYTHING WAS MY RESPON-SIBILITY

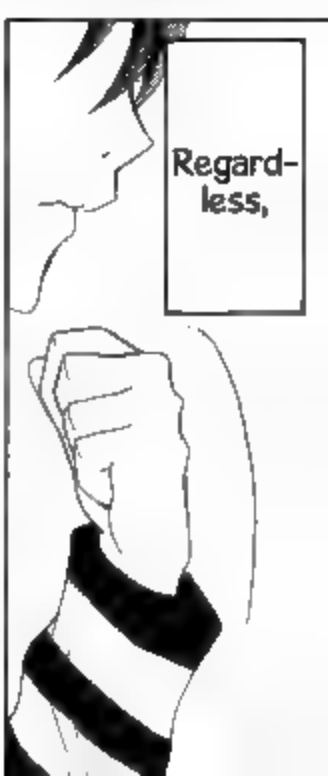
If you ended up hating me and never forgiving me,
What would I do ..?
If anything were to happen to your girlfriend .
I don't know what'd I'd do.
HURRY UP AND MAKE ME GIVE UP ON YOU!
THAT'S WHY, YOSHINO!
NO! YOU WILL THINK OF A WAY!
IF IT WAS YOU, YOU WOULD THINK OF A WAY!
I CAN'T EVEN CONTROL MY OWN FEELINGS ANYMORE!

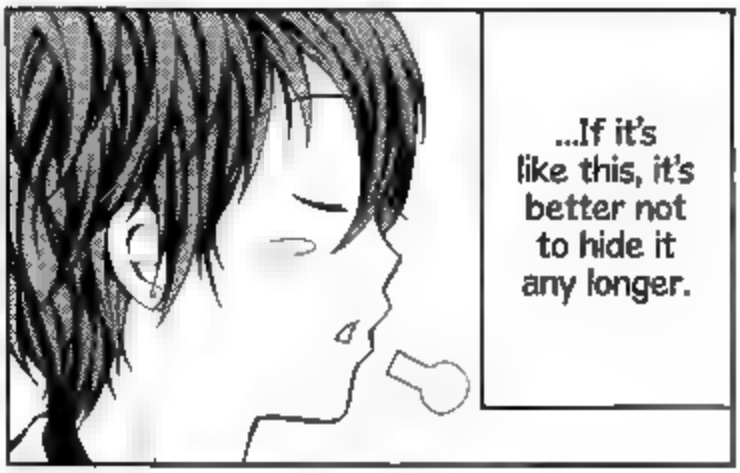

Moreover, what if Yoshino thought of an unexpected solution?
What then?!

I said everything so bluntly... If he rejects me... If he hates me.
Then I can just tough it out and be over it.

So it was like that huh?
Hakaze-san was troubled by something like this.

This really was un-expected...
What to do...


Regard-less,


...If it's like this, it's better not to hide it any longer.

PLEASE DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THINGS REGARDING MY GIRLFRIEND.
BECAUSE THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" CANNOT HARM HER ONE BIT.

EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT EVEN THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" HAS NO SAY IN...

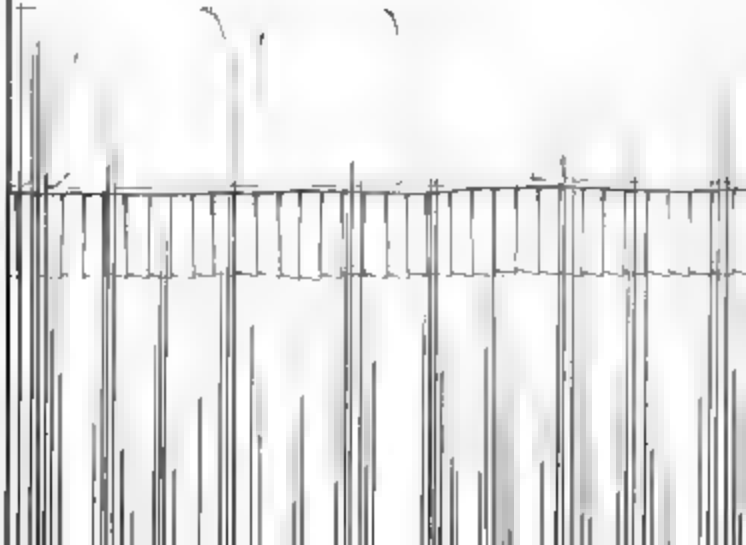
EVEN IF YOU SAY SUCH UN-REASONABLE THINGS SO NON-CHALANTLY,
I STILL WON'T HAVE ANY PEACE OF MIND.

PLEASE, NO NEED TO WORRY...

...Fu-wa...
A-i-ka...?

Where have I heard
this name before...?

BECAUSE MY
GIRLFRIEND'S
NAME IS
"FUWA AIKA".



"Forty thousand brothers,"
Girl-friend
Tomorrow
Tomorrow's date, fun currently As of now is not permitted
"Could not, with all their quantity of love,"
"I loved Ophelia"

* "Hamlet" by Shakespeare Act V Scene 1 Translation by Nojima Hidekatsu, Iwanami Library

DO YOU STILL NEED TO WORRY...
ABOUT A GIRLFRIEND THAT DIED ONE YEAR AGO...?
Mahiro's sister...
Was Yoshino's girl-friend...?!

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# ZETSUEN NO TEMPEST

by SHIRODAIRA Kyou and SAIZAKI Ren

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## ZetSuen no Tempest ch 23

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# Chapter 24: Our Trip is Over

Was Yoshino's girlfriend...?!
Mahiro's sister...

She can't possibly be...
Th... That's impos- sible..

WE ONLY MADE IT LOOK LIKE THAT,
SO MAHIRO AND THE OTHERS WOULDN'T NOTICE.

You and his sister, Aika ..
I heard you two were on bad terms!

Wh...
No ..
BUT...

EVEN IF SHE IS HIS SISTER,
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE BIOLOGICAL SIBLINGS.

CAN YOU REALLY DATE THE SISTER OF YOUR BEST FRIEND?

You knew very well how Mahiro feels towards his sister!
How could you still date her?!

Even so,

I STARTED TO NOTICE MAHIRO'S FEELINGS AS WELL ..
BUT THEN WHEN I FINALLY STARTED DATING AIKA-CHAN,
IN THE BEGINNING, HE SEEMED LIKE HE MAY HAVE EVEN HATED HER A LITTLE.
IT WASN'T LIKE THAT AT FIRST.
Since it's Yoshino himself!
If it was him who was dating Mahiro's little sister, of course he'd know who her boyfriend was.
It seemed like he wanted to bring Mahiro's younger sister back to life.
When I first explained to Yoshino about magic,
IT'S STILL BECAUSE OF ME?!
Even though your girlfriend died a long time ago,
S-So .
She wouldn't get mad even if was travel-ling w'th Yoshino...
And because she died over a year ago,

How... How do I...
Just how can I ask for forgive-ness...?!
I killed your girl-friend?!
I... I killed...

WHETHER IT'S THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN'S" FAULT, THE SCHEMING OF THE "TREE OF BEGIN-NINGS,"
OR EVEN JUST A SERIES OF BAD COIN-CIDENCES,
SFX: LIFT
WE DON'T KNOW YET FOR SURE,
WHOSE FAULT AIKA-CHAN'S DEATH WAS, RIGHT?
SFX: CLOSE
パチン

AREN'T WE CURRENTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF TRYING TO FIND THAT OUT?
Hah...

IT WAS SOMETHING EVEN YOU COULDN'T HAVE STOPPED.
YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL RESPONSIBLE ABOUT IT.

ALSO,
EVEN IF THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" HAD A HAND IN AIKA-CHAN'S DEATH,
AS A MEANS TO HELP HAKAZE-SAN,
IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU KILLED HER.

You must be crazy!
Yoshino.

SO,
HOW CAN YOU SAY SOME-THING LIKE THAT?
SFX: RUSTLE

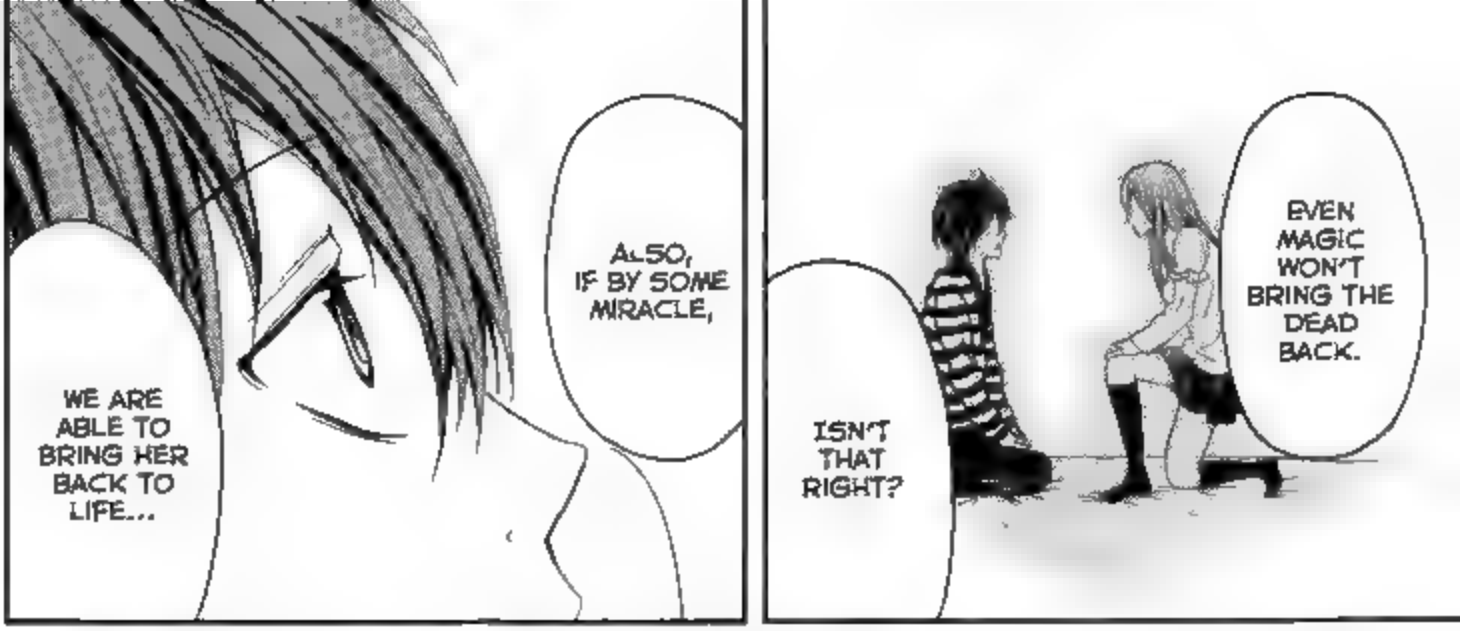
I KNOW SHE'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD!

After talking with you these past few days,
I've come to under-stand just how much you love her.

I CAN'T FEEL A THING FROM YOU! NOT A DESIRE FOR REVENGE! NO DEEP HATRED!
EVEN THOUGH SOMEONE SO CLOSE TO YOU WAS UNREA-SONABLY KILLED,
NOT EVEN A BIT OF ANGER!!

HOW HAVE YOU LIVED UNTIL NOW?!
JUST WHAT IS HAPPENING INSIDE THAT HEART OF YOURS?!

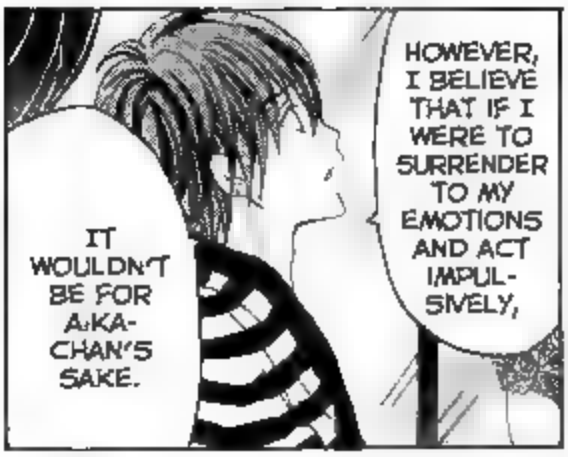
WOULD THAT BRING AIKA-CHAN BACK?
WOULD THAT CHANGE ANYTHING?
EVEN IF I WISHED FOR REVENGE,
FEEL BOTTOM-LESS HATRED OR WRITHE IN FURY,


WE ARE ABLE TO BRING HER BACK TO LIFE...
ALSO, IF BY SOME MIRACLE,
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
EVEN MAGIC WON'T BRING THE DEAD BACK.

"HOW DARE YOU CALL ME BACK HERE."
"JUST WHEN I WAS HAVING SOME HIGH-QUALITY TIME IN HEAVEN."

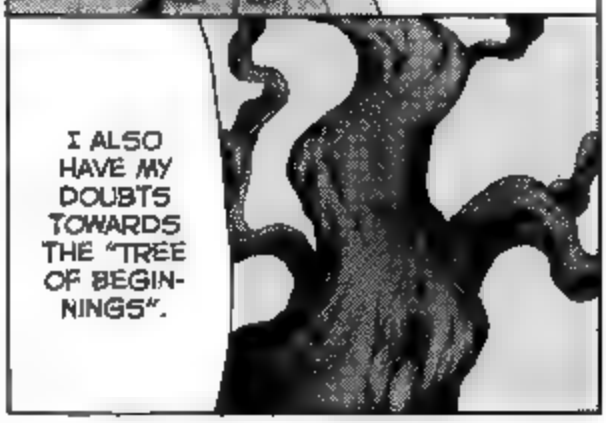
YOU !
!
THAT'S WHAT SHE'D SAY.
I'M SURE,

WHO KILLED AIKA-CHAN.
HOWEVER I DO FEEL SOME ANGER TOWARDS THE KILLER.


IT WOULDN'T BE FOR AIKA-CHAN'S SAKE.
HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT IF I WERE TO SURRENDER TO MY EMOTIONS AND ACT IMPUL-SIVELY,

I DO HAVE MIXED FEELINGS TOWARDS HANEMURA, THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN," AS HE IS CURRENTLY THE PRIME SUSPECT.

IS THROUGH ACHIEVING REVENGE.
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE WAY TO CORRECT THIS ABSURDITY,


I ALSO HAVE MY DOUBTS TOWARDS THE "TREE OF BEGIN-NINGS".

WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?!
WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ?!

THEN ...

ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU THREW YOURSELF INTO THAT BATTLE,
WITHOUT ANY COMPULSIVE EMOTIONS OR ANYTHING TO BELIEVE IN?!

WHY DID YOU SAVE ME AT FUJI MOUNTAIN?!

WHY DID YOU...

EVEN AFTER HEARING THAT I MIGHT BE THE REASON YOUR GIRLFRIEND DIED,
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO SAVE ME?!

DIDN'T YOU THINK THAT YOU'D BE ABLE TO CHANGE SOMETHING,
OR GAIN SOME ADVANTAGE BY PROTECTING ME?!

I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE HER DEATH,
SOMETHING SO TRAGIC.
IF I DIDN'T SAVE YOU BACK THERE,
AIKA-CHAN'S DEATH WOULD'VE ONLY BEEN THERE TO MAKE YOU FEEL DESPAIR ON THAT DESERTED ISLAND.
A TALE ABOUT REVENGE AND A MAGICIAN ON DESERTED ISLAND.
HOWEVER, IT'S A TALE WHERE EVERYONE'LL BE HAPPY IN THE END.
"Tempest"
IT'S ONE OF SHAKESPEARE'S WORKS.
EVEN IF HER DEATH WAS BECAUSE OF THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS,"
I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE AN ENDING,
WHERE HAKAZE-SAN MIGHT DIE LIKE AIKA-CHAN, ALONE ON THAT DESERTED ISLAND.
I DECIDED TO MOVE...
BECAUSE I THOUGHT OF AIKA-CHAN WHO SAID THOSE WORDS THAT TIME.
Heh

So both Yoshino and Mahiro,
Did everything for Fuwa Aika after all...

DID YOU BEAR ALL THIS FROM THE BEGIN-NING?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

DID YOU ALWAYS,
ACT CALM LIKE THAT?

Then during her funeral,
During her grave visit, during school,
You couldn't let any of those emotions out, right?

YOU KEPT IT A SECRET FROM MAHIRO AND EVERY-ONE,
THAT YOU WERE DATING, RIGHT?

NO ONE KNEW ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP.
AND EVEN IF I DID TELL THEM AFTERWARDS, IT'D JUST SOUND WEIRD.
YES.
AND IF I WERE TO TELL MAHIRO,
HE'D JUST KILL ME.
...LAUGHING LIKE THAT...
HIDING EVERYTHING...
ARE YOU HAPPY LIKE THAT?

I TRY MY BEST,
SO THAT IT WON'T BE A TRAGEDY WHERE EVERY-THING ENDS ANYMORE.
I'M NOT SURE.
HOWEVER,

YOU CAN'T EVEN FEEL SAD WHEN YOU LOSE THE GIRL YOU LOVE.
IF THAT'S NOT A TRAGEDY, THEN WHAT IS?
IT'S ALREADY A DAMN TRAGEDY...
YOSHINO ...

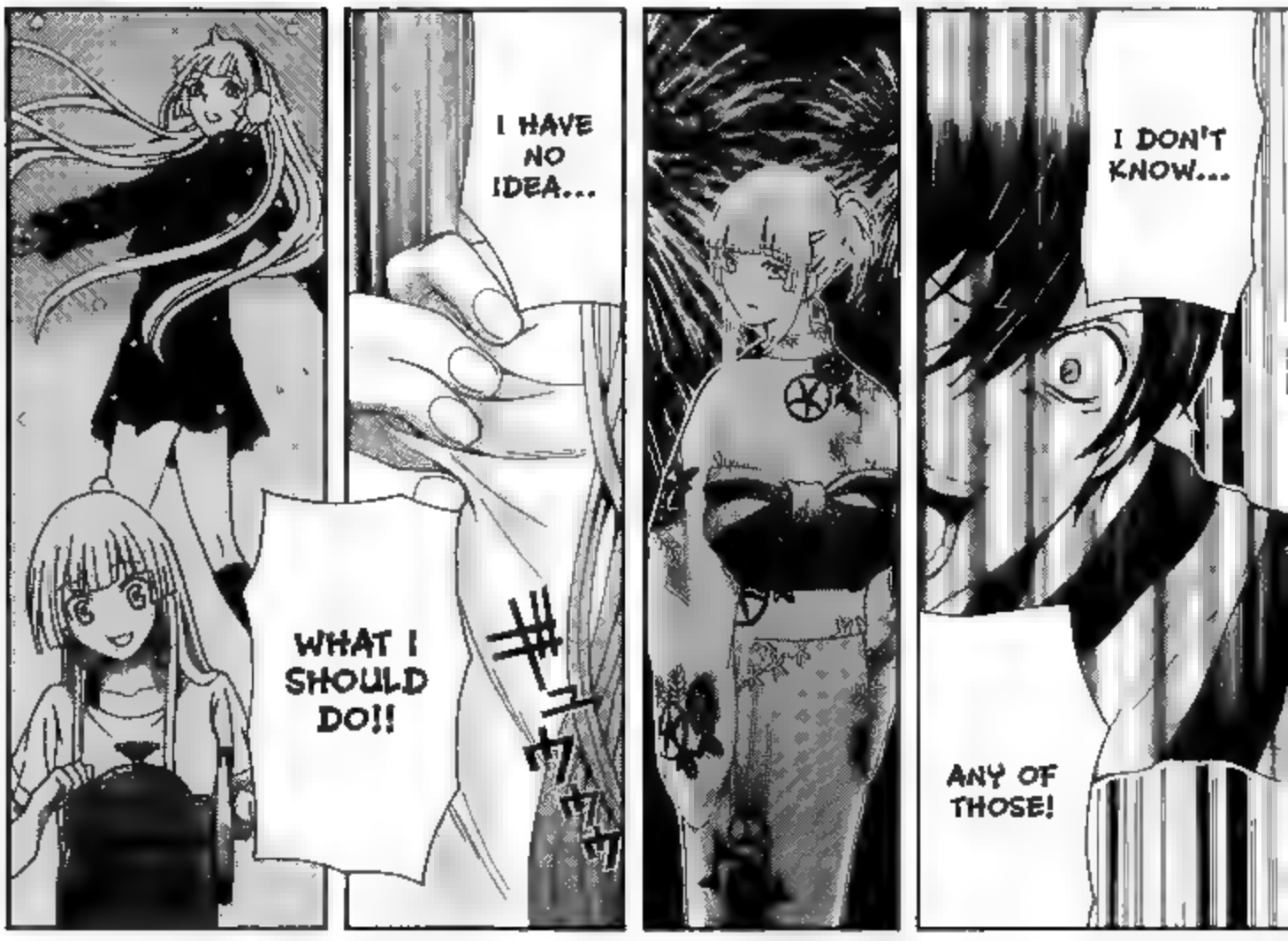
...EVEN IF I WERE TO KEEP GRIEVING,
NOTHING WILL CHANGE.

SFX. GRAB
EVEN IF IT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING!
THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN'T HELP BUT DO!
SFX. SLAP
WHAT ARE YOU TELLING ME TO DO?!

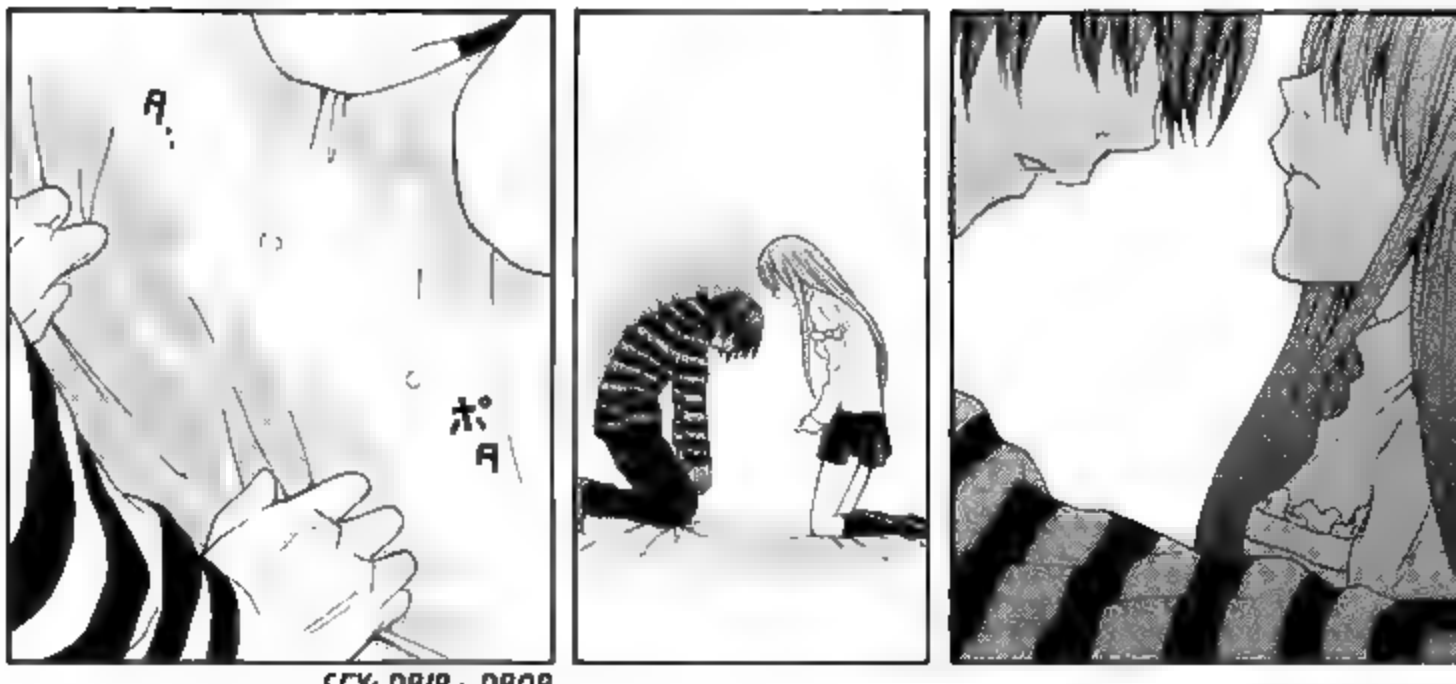
TELL HIM THAT SHE WAS MY GIRLF-RIEND?!
TELL MAHIRO EVERY-THING?!
THAT I'M A LOT SADDER THAN HE IS?!

AND COULDN'T MOVE FOR THIRTY MINUTES?!
TELL HIM ABOUT HOW I JUST SAT THERE,
TELL HIM THE TRUTH ABOUT HOW, WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE MY HOME TO GO ON A DATE WITH HER,
I GOT A PHONE CALL ABOUT HER DEATH?!
WHAT WILL THAT DO?!
AREN'T YOU ALSO HURT ENOUGH ALREADY?!
KNOWING THAT, WHY DO I HAVE TO GET MORE ANGRY?!
YOU CAN'T SAY I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH FUWA AIKA'S DEATH!!
AT LEAST GET ANGRY WITH ME!

YOU SHOULDN'T CARE ABOUT OTHERS' FEELINGS!
BE MORE HONEST WITH YOUR OWN DESIRES!


I HAVE NO IDEA...
WHAT I SHOULD DO!!
I DON'T KNOW...
ANY OF THOSE!

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO BRING HER BACK?!
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO SO THIS UN-REASONABLE WORLD WILL CHANGE?!
WILL I GET EVERYTHING BACK IF I DO SO?!
DO I HAVE TO STRANGLE YOU TO DEATH?!

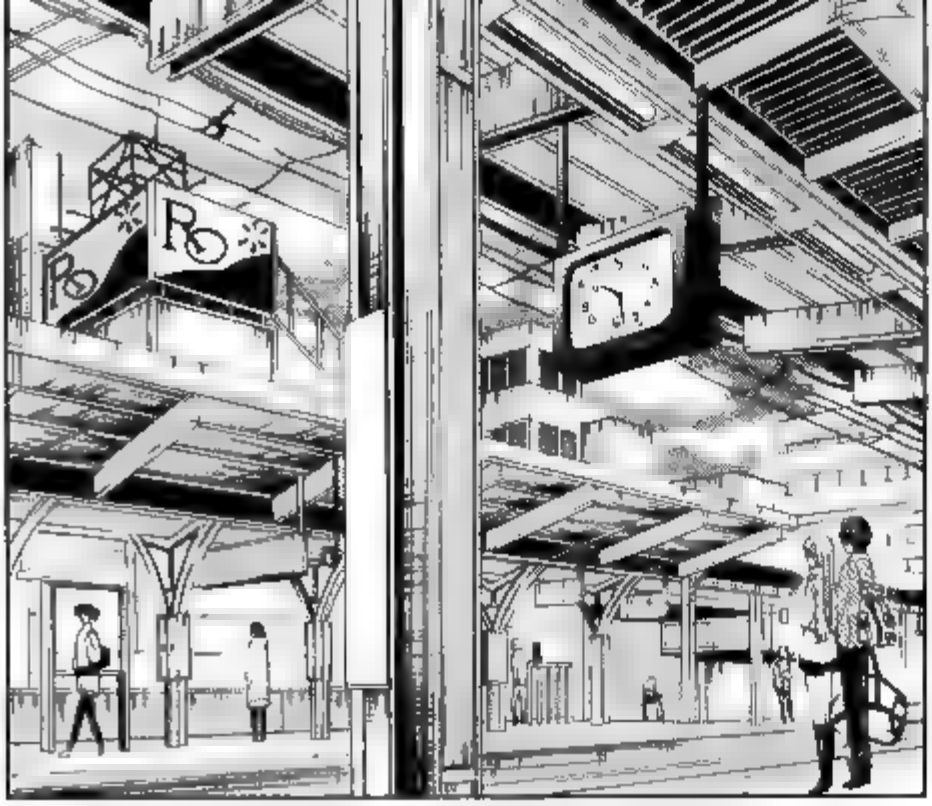


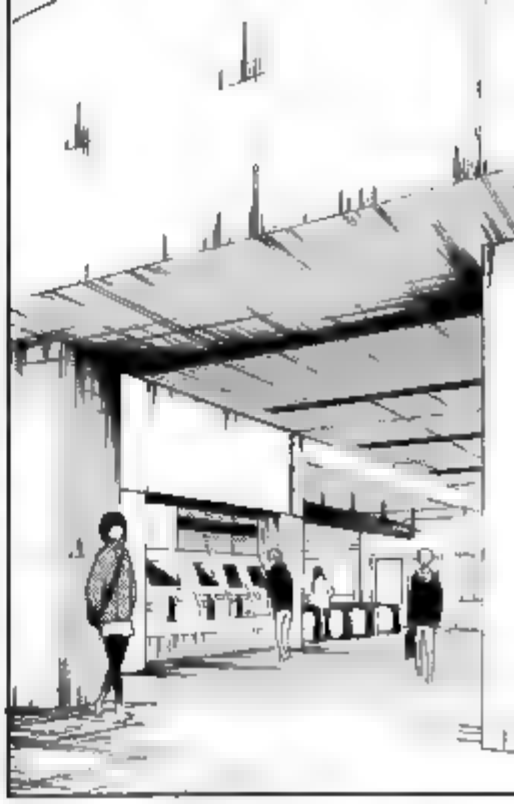

SFX: DRIP - DROP

Sob!
Sob...

YOU CAN CRY...
BECAUSE THAT IS NORMAL.

YOU CAN CRY,
FOR AS LONG AS YOU WANT.
I don't know,
What exactly the "Tree of Beginnings" has done.
But if that something led to Fuwa Aika's death,
I will definitely not forgive it.
If it has done something to toy with the life of my Yoshino,
I will make sure there's retribution!





Ah...
I showed something embarrassing...

FORGET WHAT?

THE FACT THAT I CRIED!
Y- YOU KNOW, RIGHT?!

UMM...
COULD YOU FORGET THAT?

Uwaah, I feel so down.
SFX. HAH..
STOP MUMBLING TRIVIAL THINGS.
BUT...
DON'T YOU FEEL DISAP-POINTED?
THERE'S NO NEED TO FEEL SHAME.
YOU LOOK A LOT CUTER NOW THAT YOU'VE CRIED A LITTLE.
BESIDES, EVEN I'M EMBAR-RASSED.
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I CON-FESSED TO A MAN.
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN CRY FROM TIME TO TIME,
CAN YOU EVEN CALL YOURSELF A HUMAN?
Ugh.
No...
That was...
SO NOW I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO PUT THESE FEELINGS OF MINE.
AND I GOT A SURPRISING CONFESSION FOR AN ANSWER.

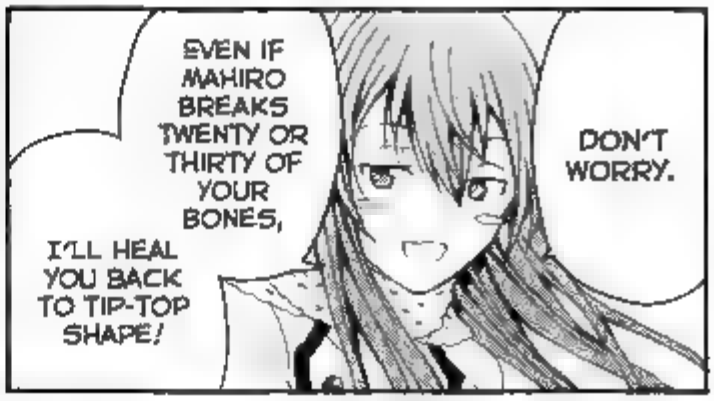
?...
I still like Aika-chan, and umm...
SFX: HEH.
YEAH.
THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD BE.
SFX: TAP
I DON'T HAVE TO RESTRAIN MY FEELINGS ANYMORE.
THERE'S NOTHING MORE WONDERFUL THAN THAT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER MY FEELINGS.
IT'S FINE, AS LONG AS THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS" DOESN'T DO ANYTHING, EVEN IF I LIKE YOU.

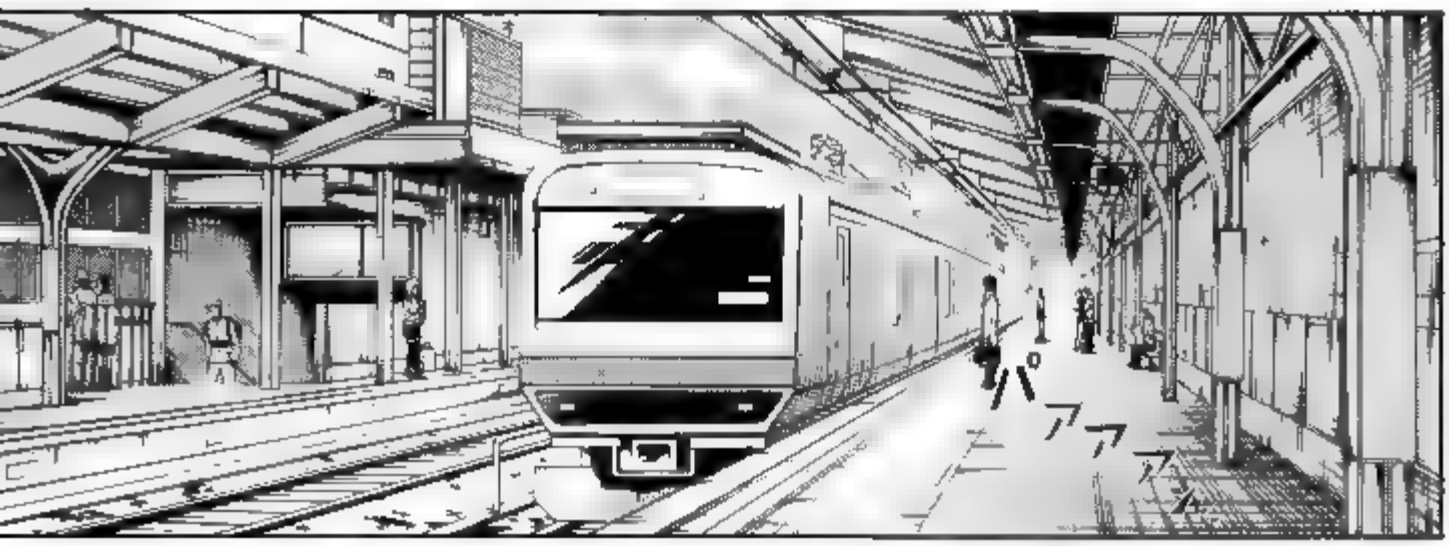
PLUS I THINK IT WOULDN'T BE THAT BAD,
IF I HAD TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUWA AIKA'S DEATH AND BE KILLED BY YOU.
JUST WHAT ABOUT ME IS SO GOOD,
THAT MAKES YOU THINK LIKE THAT?
I DID SAVE YOU BACK AT FUJI,
BUT WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT IT AFTERWARDS,
EVEN IF I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, HAKAZE-SAN WOULD'VE BEEN SAVED.
BECAUSE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE,
FOR MAHIRO AND SAMON-SAN'S NEGOTIATION TO FALL THROUGH.
SO I BET IT WOULD'VE GONE LIKE YOU FIRST PRESUMED
AND MAHIRO WOULD HAVE FIRED THE MAGICAL TOOL.
YEAH.
THAT MAY BE SO.
BUT IF YOU HADN'T MOVED BACK THEN,
I WOULDN'T HAVE LEARNED ANYTHING IMPORTANT.

I LEARNED SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
BUT BECAUSE YOU CAME IN AT THAT MOMENT,
I PROBABLY WOULD'VE STAYED THE KIND OF WOMAN WHO WOULD NEVER DOUBT HER OWN LUCK AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.
AS A RESULT I MIGHT'VE DESTROYED THIS WORLD.
YOU DID SOMETHING MAGNIFICENT.
Aika-chan...
It seems I did something outrageous...
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TELL MAHIRO YOU WERE HIS SISTER'S BOYFRIEND?
SINCE YOU MADE THAT PROMISE, YOU HAVE TO TELL HIM SOMETIME, NO?
SO, YOSHINO.
ガコン
SFX: CLONK

PLEASE SAVE ME BEFORE HE BREAKS THEM.
I'M NOT SO THOUGHTLESS I'D COME BETWEEN THE PROMISE OF TWO MEN!

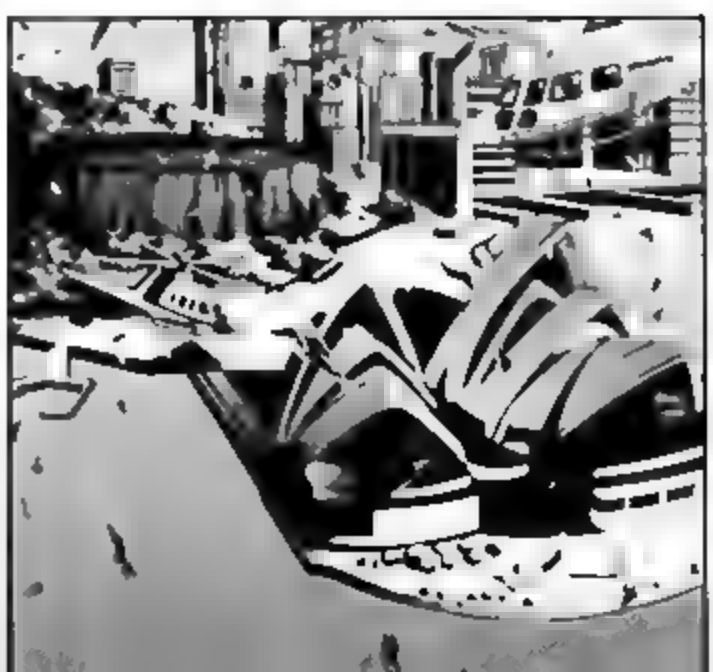
UMM...
CAN'T I PASS ON THAT...?

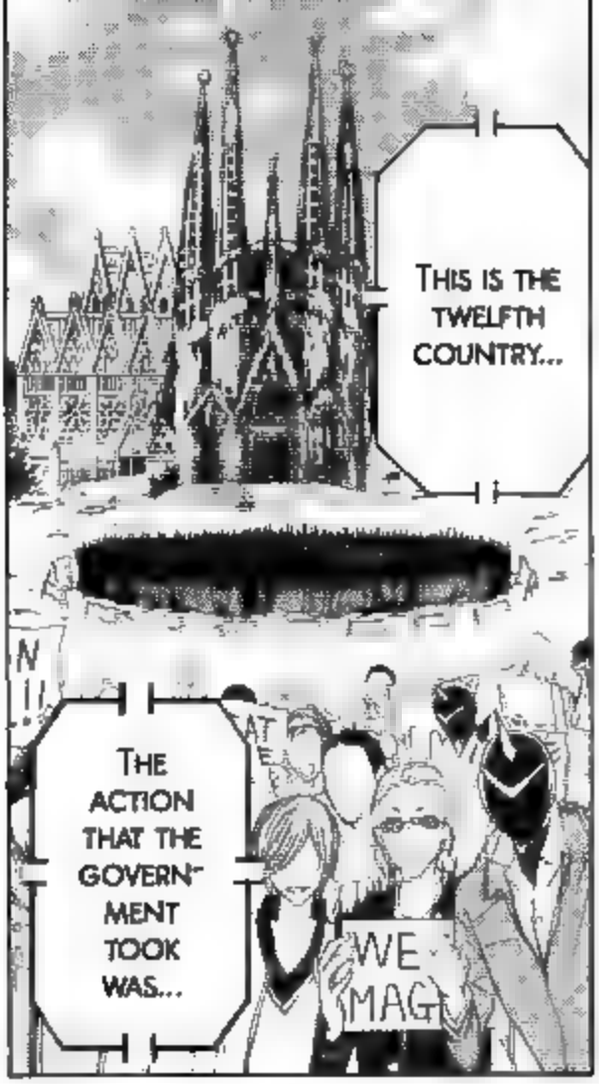

DON'T WORRY.
EVEN IF MAHIRO BREAKS TWENTY OR THIRTY OF YOUR BONES,
I'LL HEAL YOU BACK TO TIP-TOP SHAPE!



I'll let Samon and the others move freely for a little while.

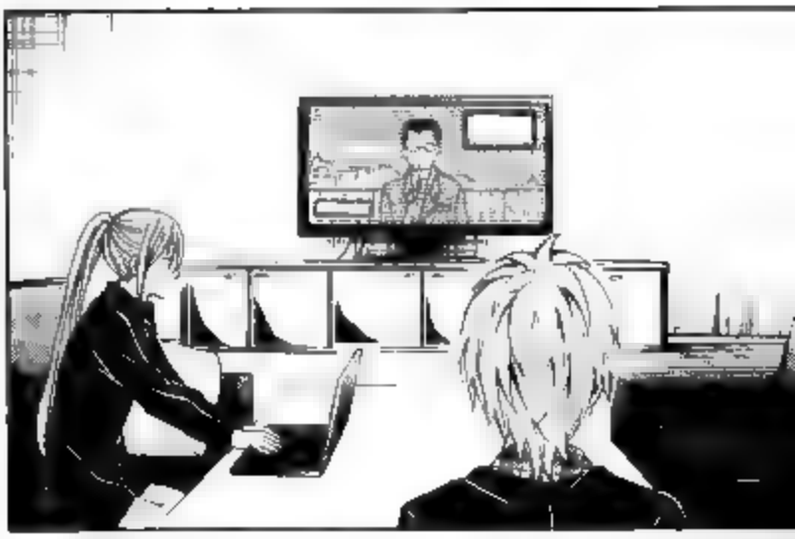
It seems,
I can still continue this journey for a while.




THIS IS THE TWELFTH COUNTRY...
THE ACTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT TOOK WAS...
WE MAG

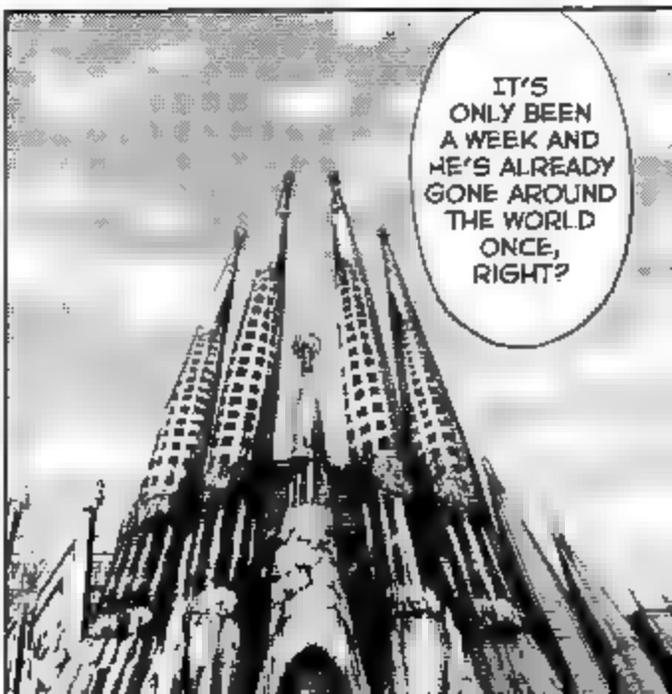
IN BARCELONA, SPAIN, AT 10 P.M. LOCAL TIME.
A PERSON NAMED THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN" ARRIVED.

HANEMURA'S DOING PRETTY WELL.



WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THERE'S NO PARTICULAR ORDER IN THE COUNTRIES HE VISITS.
WE NEED TO DECIDE THEM AT RANDOM.

EVEN SO,


IT'S ONLY BEEN A WEEK AND HE'S ALREADY GONE AROUND THE WORLD ONCE, RIGHT?

IT SHOULDN'T BE THAT HARD.
THERE WAS A GUY WHO TRAVELED AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS WHEN PLANES DIDN'T EVEN EXIST YET.

IT MUST BE TOUGH FOR HIM,
TO CROSS TIME ZONES MULTIPLE TIMES IN ONLY THREE DAYS.

NOW YOU'RE COMPARING HIM TO A NOVEL FROM 19TH CENTURY?

WHAT'S UP,
HANE-MURA?

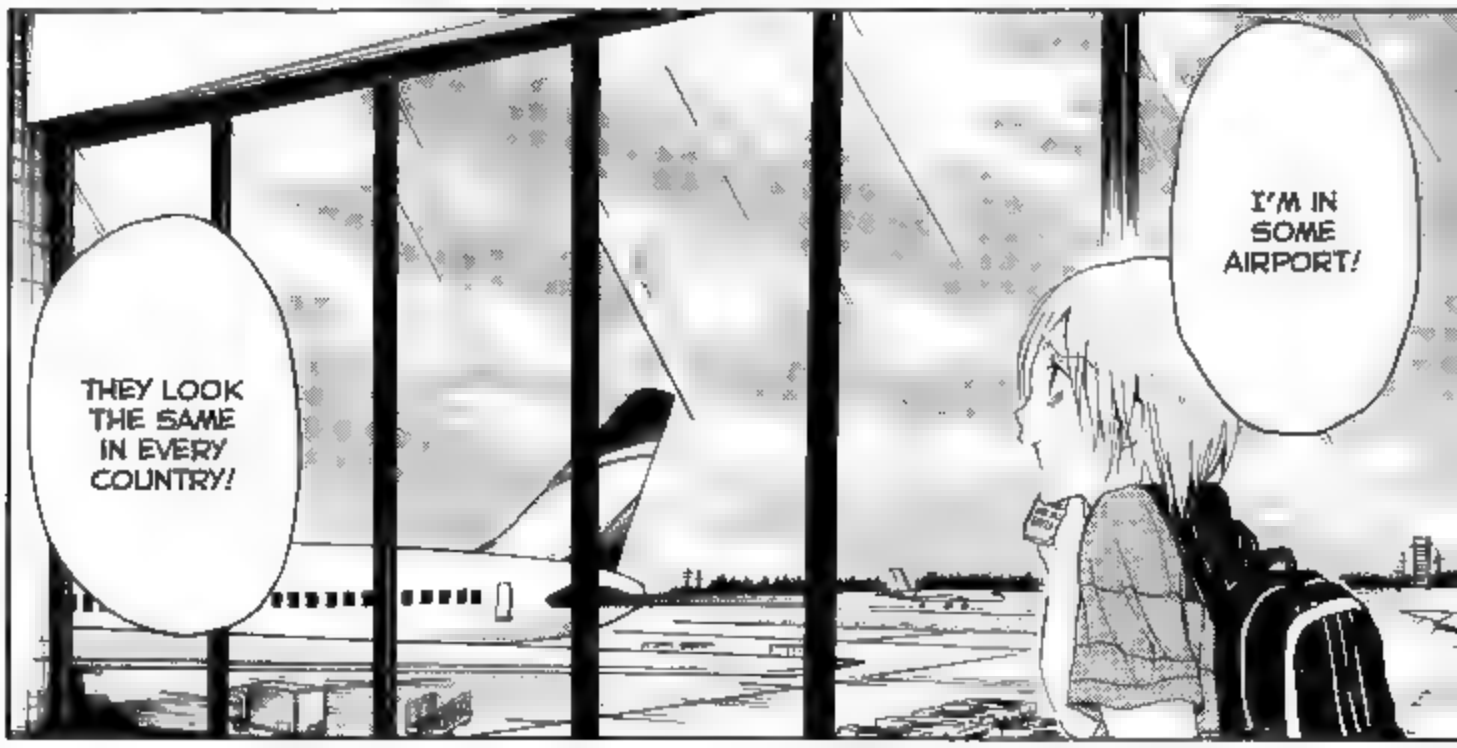
ブブ

ブブブブ

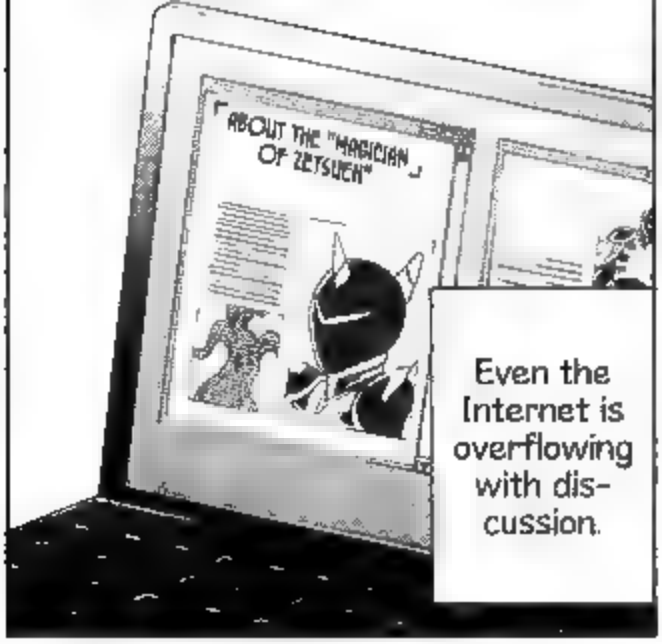
SFX: BZZZT

WHAT DAY IS IT ANYWAY?!
TELL ME, MAHIRO-KUN! WHERE ON EARTH AM I?

TS NOTE. He has a cellphone and doesn't know what time is it??? 6.6);



But I'm sure I won't even have any time to relax here!
Please, can you tell them?
THEY'RE CHOCOLATE COVERED MACADAMIA NUTS?
MACA DAMIA NUTS
.....
THAT'S LIKE A HEAVEN COMPARED TO COLD JAPAN.
THEN THAT'S HAWAII.
SFX: AWW AWW AWW
YEAH, HELLO?
MAHIRO-KUN?
YOU'RE NEAR THAT WOMAN, RIGHT?
GIVE HER THE PHONE.
THAT'LL BE YOUR LAST JOB.
I'LL TELL THEM TO LET YOU HAVE SOME FREE TIME.
FINE, I GOT IT.
MACA DAMIA NUTS
It's been two weeks since the debut of the "Magician of Zetsuen"...
It's almost exactly like Hayakawa wanted.

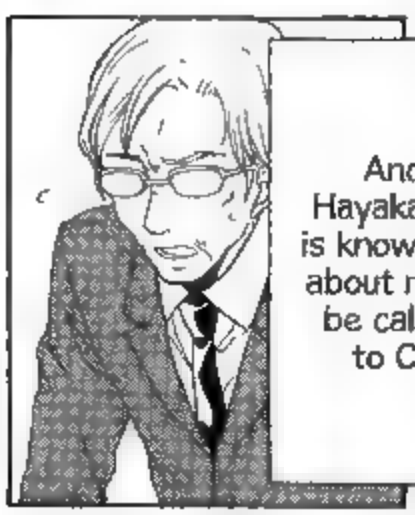



Even the Internet is overflowing with discussion.

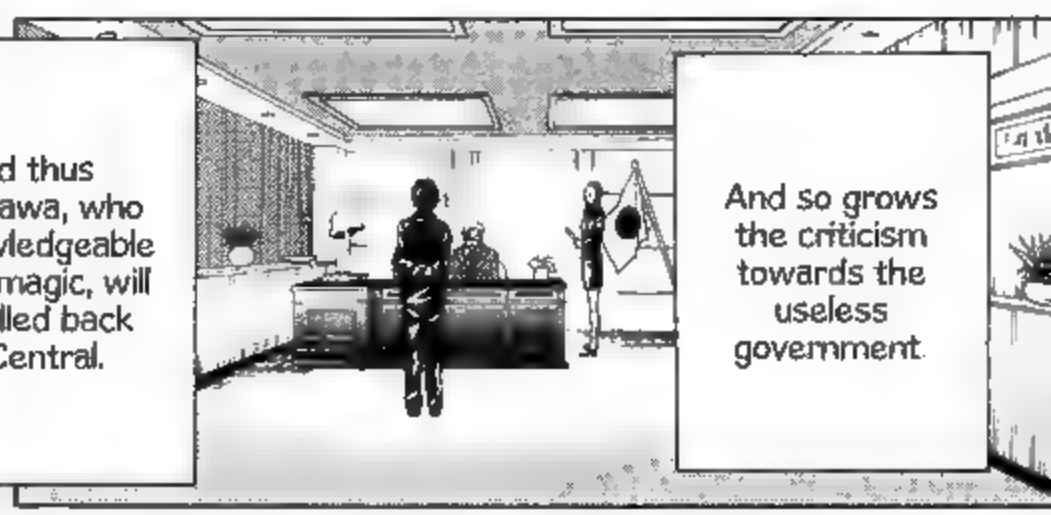
The "Magician of Zetsuen" is the only topic on TV

WHO IS THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN"?!

Revolts against the "Tree of Beginnings" have started as well.



And thus Hayakawa, who is knowledgeable about magic, will be called back to Central.

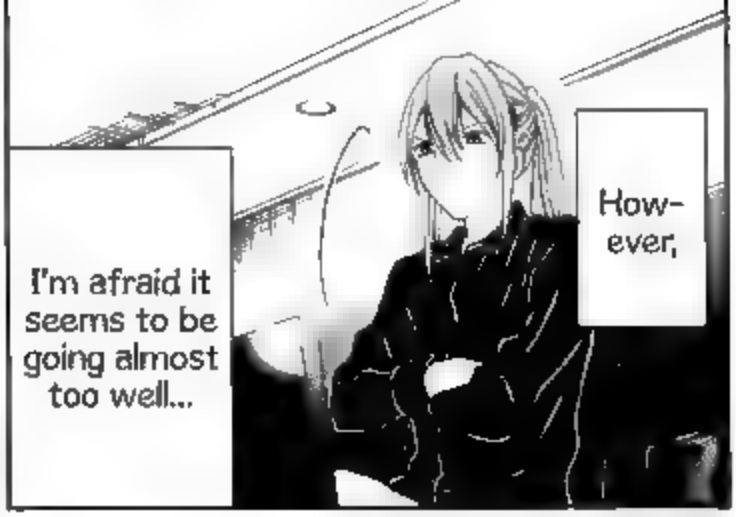


And so grows the criticism towards the useless government.

Just as we had planned from the start.

That way, he will be able to move more freely.

YOU'VE GOT THAT SCARY LOOK ON YOUR FACE.


How-ever,
I'm afraid it seems to be going almost too well...

YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT STILL...

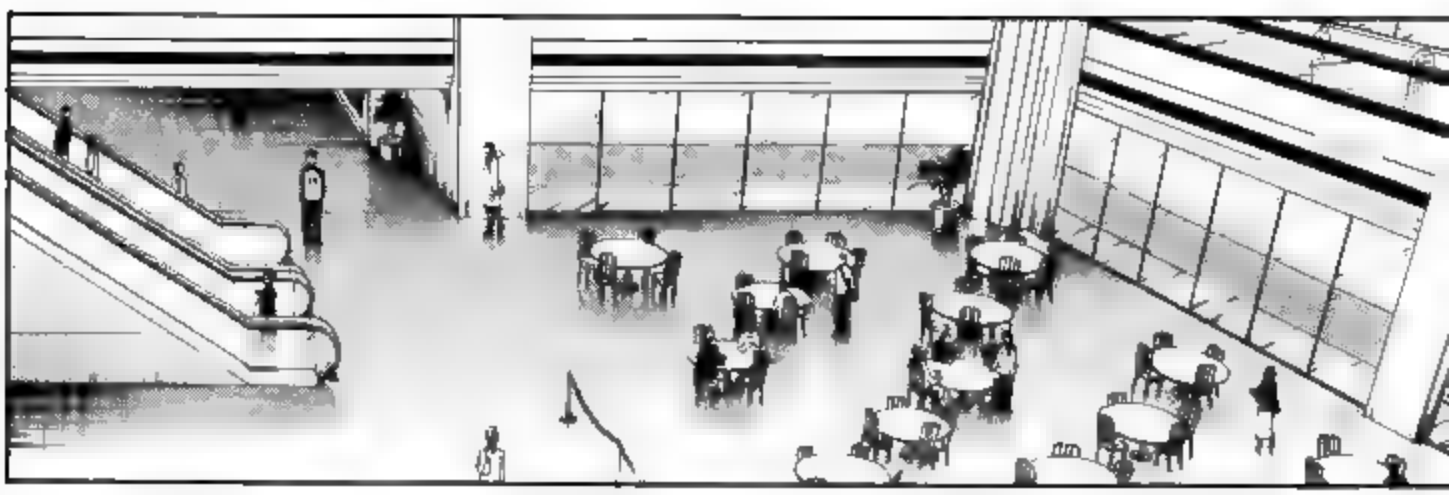
HANEMURA'S MOVING EXACTLY LIKE WE WANT AND HAKAZE'S GOT HER MIND FULL OF OTHER STUFF.
IF HAKAZE ISN'T DOING ANYTHING, WE CAN MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.

IT'S NOT A GOOD SIGN THAT SHE'S THAT MUCH ABSORBED WITH TAKIGAWA YOSHINO...

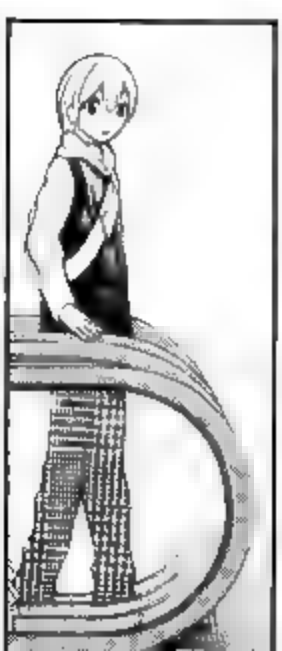
WE'VE BEEN MOVING PRETTY FLASHILY LATELY.
IT'S NOT LIKE HER TO KEEP QUIET AFTER ALL WE'VE DONE.

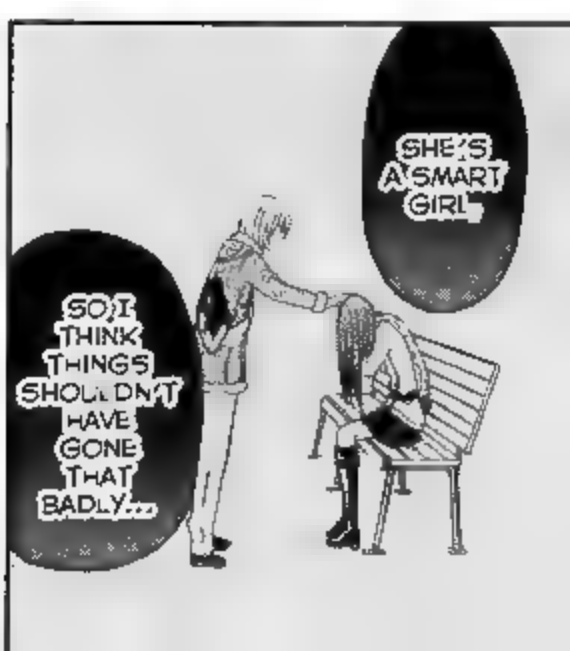
.....

Which means Yoshino is doing a good job.
Or does it, I wonder?



I WONDER HOW THEY'RE DOING...
IT'S BEEN ONE MONTH SINCE I TOLD HAKAZE-CHAN TO GIVE UP ON YOSHINO-KUN




SHE'S A SMART GIRL
SO I THINK THINGS SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE THAT BADLY...

JUN-NIISAN.
OH.

ARE YOU FINALLY GOING TO GRADUATE FROM UNIVERSITY THIS YEAR?
YOU'RE STILL WANDERING HERE AND THERE.

HELLO, HAKAZE-CHAN.
AND YOSHINO-KUN.

IT'S NOT THE RIGHT TIME TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT
THANKS TO SAMON-SAN AND ALL,

UMM...

SFX: RATTLE

THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN" APPEARS IN WAIKIKI, HAWAII!!
THERE'S NOTHING BUT NEWS OF THE "MAGICIAN OF ZETSUEN" THESE PAST TWO WEEKS.

BUT IT SEEMS THE ORIGIN ISN'T SAMON BUT SOME-ONE CALLED HAYAKAWA.
THEY THOUGHT OF SOME-THING IN-TERESTING THIS TIME.

There

BUT I GUESS IT'S TO BE EXPECTED,
IF YOU KEEP DESTROYING TREES IN 13 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN ONLY HALF A MONTH.

YOSHINO.

YOSHINO-KUN,
WOULD YOU EXCUSE ...

Could you move to that table over there and pretend to not see or hear anything.
It seems Jun-niisan wants to talk to me about something in private.

WOULD THAT BE ENOUGH?
...I SEE.
THEN I WILL.
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU LATER ANYWAY.
BUT FOR JUN-NIISAN, WE CAN AT LEAST MAKE IT SEEM LIKE WE HAVE PRIVACY.
.....
WERE YOU ABLE TO,
GIVE UP ON YOSHINO-KUN?
YOU'VE GOT A REFRESHED EXPRES-SION.
I DO?

Heh...
Love is ridiculous.

Jun-niisan,

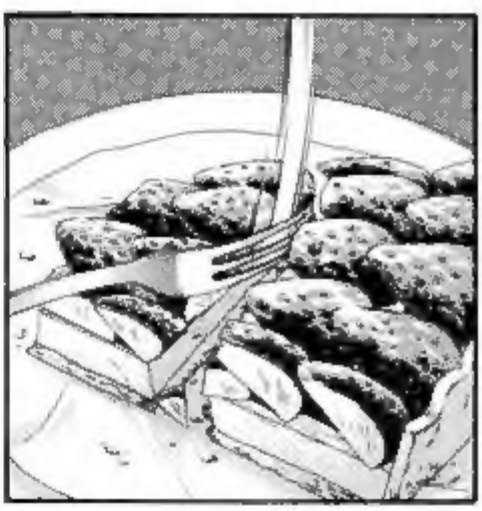
...Huh?

BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING MUCH BETTER.

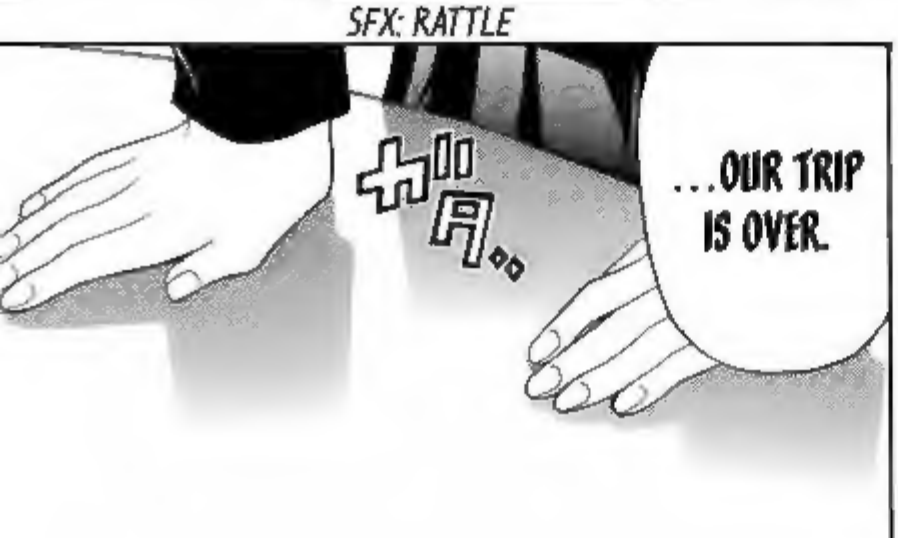
BUT IT'S STILL RIDICU-LOUS.
LOVE ITSELF ISN'T THAT BAD.

WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPENING?
WHAT THE...
HAKAZE-CHAN,
ISN'T IN LOVE WITH YOSHINO-KUN,
THERE'S SOMETHING MUCH DEEPER...
JUN-NIISAN.
SFX: CLANK

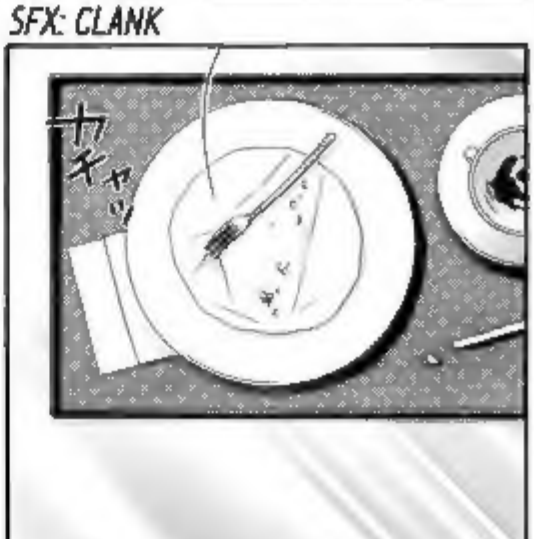
I'M THINKING OF DEFEATING THE "TREE OF BEGINNINGS".
WHAT DO YOU SAY?



SFX: RATTLE




SFX: CLANK



I NEED TO START MOVING AS WELL.
ガタッ

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# ZETSUEN NO TEMPEST

by SHIRODAIRA Kyou and SAIZAKI Ren

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## Zetsuen no Tempest ch 24

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